

THE SANDMUTOPIAN

Issue #26

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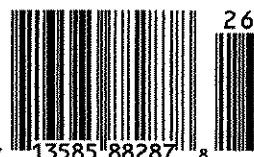
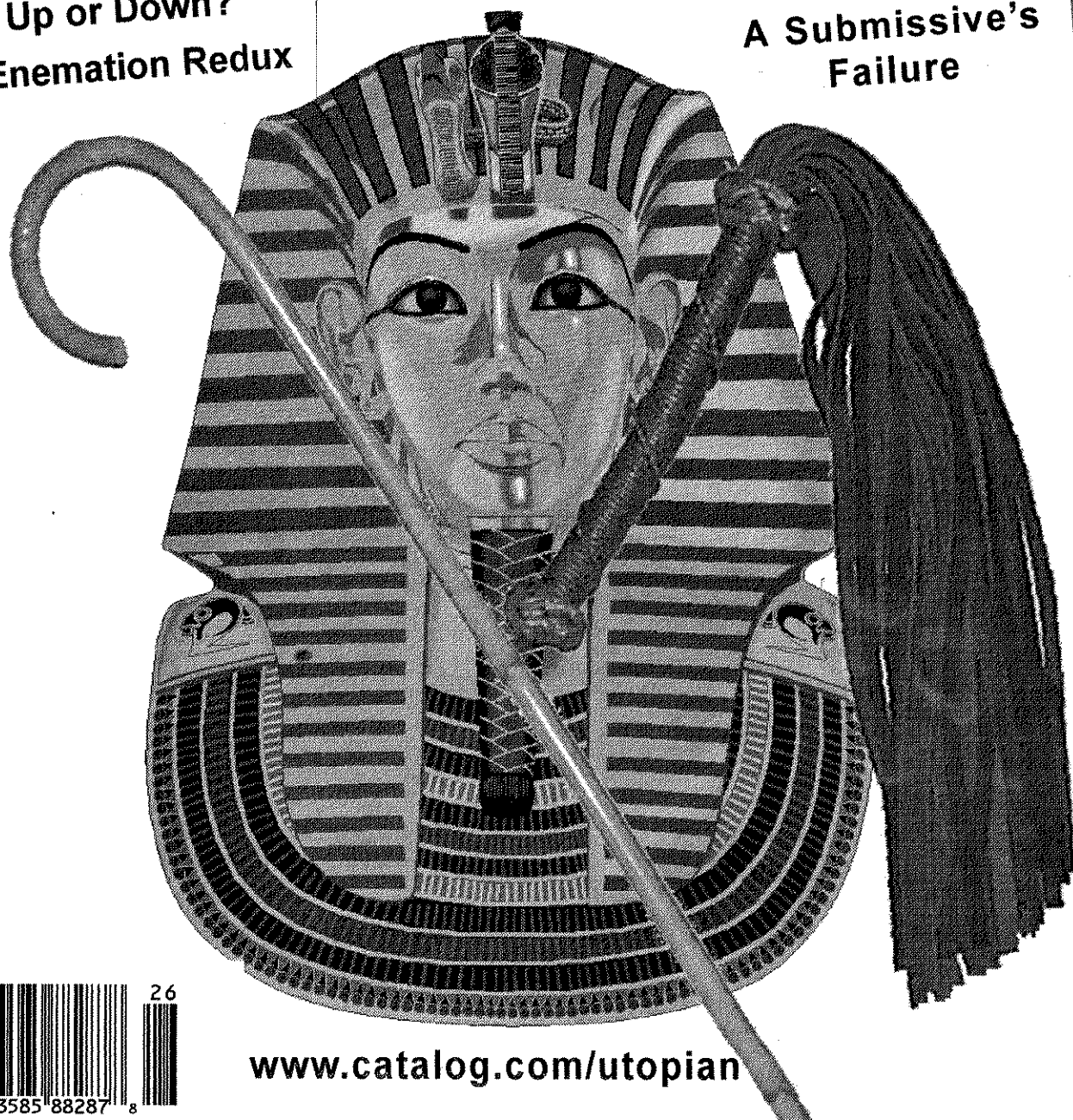
GUARDIAN

A Journal of BDSM Realities

Flogging -
Up or Down?
Enemation Redux

The Return of the
MUMMY

Slave Auctions
Slave Behavior
A Submissive's
Failure



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"... but we don't take American Express!"



Our Guardian Angels

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Letters to the Editor

Our Readers' Forum

Send comments, queries or criticisms to: Editor, c/o The Utopian Network, PO Box 1146, New York, NY 10156 or FAX to (516) 842-7518 or e-mail to siradam@ix.netcom.com. Include name and address please, which will be held confidential.

As an avid enema fan, I anxiously await Mr. Kessler's next installment. My wife is a "convert" too, who was genuinely surprised at how sensual they can be and how D/s they can be too. ... May I suggest including some information on quantity. Medical literature is usually vague or contradictory and while quantity is not a goal, a novice may benefit from knowing that they can safely go further than they have previously. I know the large intestine has periodic internal sphincters that can lead one to believe that they've maxed out when there's still a long way to go. Granted, small to medium-sized doses are perfectly fine, but it's fun to be full!

Frankly, I am not surprised at the positive response your Enema piece received — it was Great (and I'm not schmoozing). Also, it is amazing how wide a range of exploration can be done with this seemingly simple activity — plus they don't hurt, which, for the tender-bottomed bottoms out there, must be a big plus!

KD
NJ

I want to thank Sheela Ardrian for her "masterful" discussion of the joys of hot wax ("Waxwork", Issue #25). It was the most complete explanation of this delightful torture I have seen and I happily took the opportunity to use it as a reference at a recent meeting of SMAntic Coffee Klatsch (SMACK, Long Island, NY). My humble additions to her information are: 1) make sure the recipient has recently put lotion on his/her skin — as this makes for easier removal of those last little crumbs. And, 2) resist the temptation to do waxing in a totally dark room. Whether from candles or lamplight, you need enough visibility to see if the skin is reddening. Some people can enjoy more heat than their skin can handle safely. Again, thanks to Sheela and to *The Guardian*!

diane
NY

I read your 24th Issue and the personal view that was called "Ain't Misbehavin'" by Lee Boudreaux. I found it to be both

interesting and informative, yet at the same time somewhat whiny....

We say we want higher acceptance and to be mainstream but can we really have rights without responsibility. To gain respect we must develop a credo of order and discipline. ... The writer seems to believe in not just individual choice and freedom but *total* freedom that is unfettered by any group or governmental agency. With the growth of the BDSM community and the diversity within it, we have to organize, create controls, and develop some uniformity which will be for the common good of all in the community. If the gay community can organize and meld into the basic society then why can't we? ... Some people like being and playing the role of the outsider or the rebel so they are and will continue to be non-conformist regardless of what others do, so, if BDSM becomes mainstream they won't go with it. Let us police ourselves before some individual who is too free-thinking and too wild gets under the nose of the justice system and some prosecuting attorney decides to try for a decision similar to the Spanner case right here in the US. If we stay unorganized and weak we will never gain respect of the type that will truly empower us. The right type of power will make us strong and influential. Both the political and justice systems will give respect to a powerful organized group....

Freedom is an eternal vigilance. If we sit back and don't set our own boundaries, order, rules and discipline then some community (sic) authority may do it for us in the future and in a very repressive manner. If we don't organize and create group power of the type which can influence community laws and politicians, then we by our inactions deserve whatever we get. There are no perfect rules, justice or courts but this should not stop us from doing all that we can because Human Kind is itself fallible, imperfect and inexact beings.

R. Ballard
Chicago

One of the most admirable functions of your magazine is as a clearinghouse for information among your readers. I'm hoping to tap into that because there's something I've been wondering about for some time.

Has anyone ever seen a female crucifix? Does anyone make or sell them? It is very exasperating to someone of my orientation, because the victim is always the wrong sex. Issue #2 of *The Guardian* has a hair-raisingly vivid article on the subject, but both illustrations were male. In fact, the only female crucifixion illustration I've ever seen was in the old "*Phoebe Zeigeist*" comic strip that appeared in the *Evergreen Review* back in the '60's. It's my treasure ...

I think about St Eulalie, martyred in the 3rd Century. The Roman governor set out to humiliate her and had her crucified stark naked (which wasn't unusual), then ordered the corpse laid face up in the town square for viewing by the townspeople. Artists who depict her martyrdom invariably show her lying in the square instead of hanging on her cross where I want to see her.

Am I the only person who has such thoughts? If any other readers have thoughts on this subject, I'd be grateful to hear from them via *The Guardian*.

BN
Phoenix

You are doing an excellent job with *The Guardian*, and I am an avid reader.

If I offer constructive criticism here, it may come across as quibbling. Because on the whole I have no negative impressions of the material you are publishing. But, just to point out one small aspect which others may not have commented on, to you: I think someone has to pay a little closer attention to the graphic side. I can see you don't have color, and I am sure you have other budgetary limitations. But the cover picture of Issue #25 — a candle floating inexplicably in air over an open toilet — went about as far as anyone can go before their publication becomes the object of laughter (in a BAD way). Compare that with the Pirate picture on the cover of #24, probably the most profes-

sional-looking cover graphic that you have and the difference is marked: #24 was detailed, real-feeling, attractive; #25 was weird, grade-schoolish, vaguely repulsive.

In general, I'd say, you're safer using photos on the cover: we the literate public are used to thinking of black-and-white photos as artistic. On the other hand, in most cases black-and-white drawings remind us of your budget, because even a comic book would add color to the drawings.

Miss Mercy can come up with a humorous-looking cartoon-style when left to her own devices. But her Luperclia cover #20 was just too amateurish. Look at the faces when you judge these things: if there's something grotesque and unbalanced going on in facial features, it is probably the sign of an illustrator trying too hard to be realistic when their skill stops at cartooning.

The most picky detail of all: if it were up to me, I'd put Rex's Angels back on the cover. They represent a logo, which is important to the brand-recognition of a magazine in the audience's imagination. They also seem to represent a minor "tradition," and such things are valuable rarities in a field that is known for being quirky and nonconformist. You are selling "tradition" because we buy *The Guardian* to get a textbook, a reliable basic resource of tried-and-proven experience — NOT innovation in the field of publishing. (Even though it is that too.)

Again, this is not an important point. But it's part of the overall attention to the graphic side which I think is your magazine's chief weakness.

Personally, I've never understood why the Angels surround the "U", anyway. The letter or word "Utopia" doesn't in itself represent a common Scene goal or focus. Nor are you trying to sell Utopian "perfection"; you are selling present-tense practicality. Now, if the writing in the circle were the letters "S" and "M", it would make more sense to me.

And, to reach my peak of pickiness, ideally I would remove the whip from the male Angel's hands. I'm a dom. But two doms don't make a workable couple. Besides, the male's hands are positioned well to take a flogging. And not at all well to give one.

Aside from all that, it's a great journal! May it live long and prosper!

Adrian
via email

Message from The Publishers

This issue, we really got an assortment of "pats and pans," and printed them all. In reply to "Adrian," assessment of our graphics, Editor Mitch Kessler said, "I think you'd like to know that, I'd have to agree with you on nearly every point. We know the graphics are bad. The covers are the worst ... the article 'decorations' the next worst — while the actual illustrations are, I hope, getting *better* all the time... Please understand that when we rescued *The Guardian* from oblivion, we made a conscious decision to concentrate on the best **content** we could muster ... and to that end, **PAY THE AUTHORS** — a thing that had not been done before.

We also decided to project ... or at least not to undercut ... a pansexual commitment on our covers — which meant neither beefcake nor cheesecake would really serve the purpose...

On our first issue, we found that the best cover photo we could think of, and afford, did NOT win back readers. Nor did the Rex Angels do much to persuade Organized Leather that we merited their support. Accordingly, we redoubled our commitment to content ... and stopped worrying about covers and for that matter Organized Communities. As long as we are not mistaken for a Girly Mag or a House Organ — we're satisfied.

The Utopian Network is the name, and the CircleU the logo, under which Gerrie and I have been doing business for more than 10 years ... there was a natural desire to include our own trademark on this project as well. Nor did it seem inappropriate, since the name of the publication had been, from the beginning, the '*Sandmutopia Guardian*' ... S and M Utopia Guardian — get it? Issue #1 goes on at some length about founder, Tony De Blase's, idea of 'SandM Utopia.' Issue #18 explains why and how we became **The Utopian Network** back in 1985.

And, lastly, we don't want to turn our 'Guardian Angels' male and female, into an identifiably heterosexual, femdom, couple. It's that 'pansexual' thing again."

You may notice that there are no **Classifieds** and **Personals** in this issue. Having a small circulation magazine with an international readership makes finding "the partner of your dreams," who is also "geographically suitable" well nigh impossible! We have been encouraging readers to use their local weekly newspapers instead. (Just find the right code words to get the "message" past the "censors.")

Instead, we have advocated the use of the Classifieds to advertise your "outgrown" equipment. Many of us have pieces that are perfectly serviceable, but just not what we want to play with now that we have "grown," or changed in our taste and BDSM practices. Subscribers are invited to send your ads for such merchandise at NO CHARGE, for a future issue. When we have accumulated a few, we will put them into a classifieds page. Not yet a *Guardian* Subscriber? See the back cover.

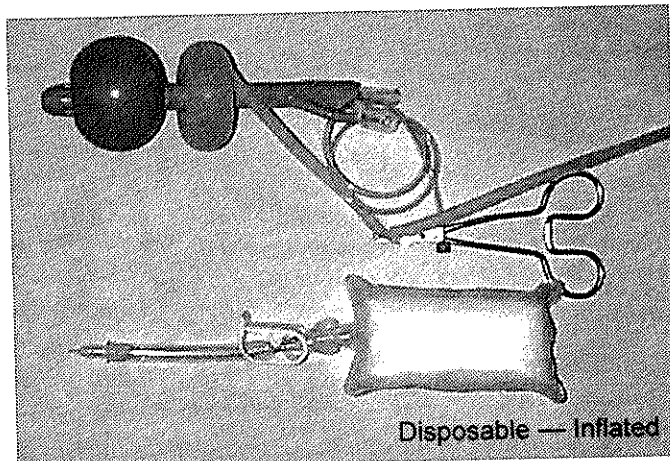
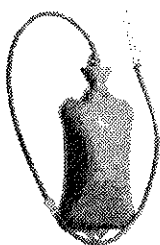
Gerrie and Mitch

You Write 'em, We'll Print 'em!

The SandM Utopian Guardian #26

An Introduction to Enemation, Part 2 The Bardex™

by Mitch Kessler



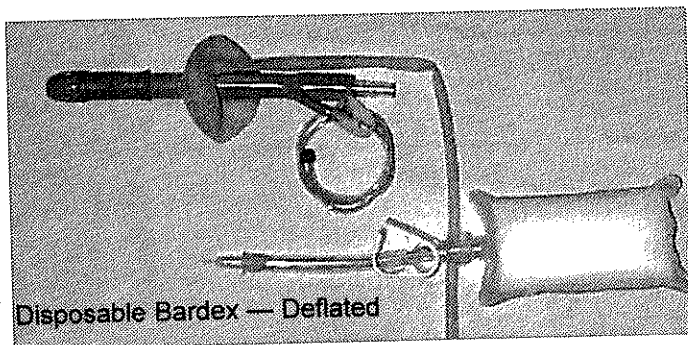
Disposable — Inflated

The Bardex™ is the ultimate enema nozzle. It was originally invented to fill two purposes. It is easier to give enemas in a hospital bed without having to change the sheets, and it lets patients take high volume, long retention enemas without great muscular effort.

are inflated with air, a compressible medium. There comes a point when the ability of the colon's muscles to compress the balloon is greater than the balloon's ability to expand the colon's diameter. Simultaneously, the balloon will lose its globular proportions and become cigar-shaped. This forces some liquid higher into the gut, but it also allows this, "impossibly large" object to be expelled without catastrophic stretching

of the sphincter and colon.

In other words, latex Bardexes are safer ... more difficult to "over inflate," than they appear.



Whatever clinical advantages this offered, the "sensualist's" advantage is simply that the enema receiver can relax and enjoy the experience. The "sadist's" advantage is that the "victim" *cannot* release the enema however much they want to, even if they are cramping.

Both these statements are true only up to a certain point. Unless the Bardex's balloon is perfectly "seated" inside the sphincter, a small amount of liquid can

The medical profession now favors disposable enema gear and the disposable Bardex is available for "civilian" use. It is also easier to obtain from local pharmacies than the old-fashioned latex models. In addition to the health and daintiness benefits, one-use nozzles offer a number of benefits to the novice enemator. The rigid plastic nozzle is much easier to inflate than the soft latex tube of the original. The inflator is

designed so that a single full squeeze inflates the balloon to the maximum safe (for the balloon) diameter. Over-inflation, so far as the body is concerned, is therefore almost impossible.

Disposable enema kits are intended to be disposed of after one use. With care, two or three uses might be managed. Very soon the balloons develop pinholes ... leaving a very practical general purpose enema nozzle. Retailing at nearly one-third the cost of a reusable (although not ever-lasting) Bardex, they are not cost-effective ... unless you're experimenting to see if you like the Bardex Experience.

USING THE BARDEX

Because the flexible Bardex nozzle can be a bit tricky to insert and seat, the receiver should probably take a fast, low volume cleansing enema or rectal douche to relax and moisten the opening, and to make a bit of room inside for the inflated balloon. It is also helpful if the receiver spreads his/her own ass-cheeks to give the enemator a clear field of approach.

To further ease insertion, there is a technique called, "splash insertion." This is simply the practice of releasing spurts of water as the tip of the enema nozzle is pressed past the anal sphincter. There needs to be some provision made for the inevitable puddles of soapy water.

The Double Bardex is, unfortunately, symmetrical. As manufactured, one cannot tell the difference between the

DISPOSABLES

line feeding the internal balloon and the external one, either by sight or feel. This can be remedied by tying a bit of string around one or the other.

generously-sized cabooses, the outer balloon presses against the butt cheeks, *pulling* the inner balloon against the sphincter.

In any case, the balloon should be positioned as close as possible to the sphincter and inflated just enough to help hold the assembly in place. This is usually something between the size of a golf ball and a squash ball. More inflation spreads the butt cheeks ... an optional sensation — depending on the reaction desired. With over-inflation the outer balloon can actually pull

the inner one out. So, "easy does it" inflating the outer balloon.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT

Eventually the desired fullness will be reached. What happens next is a personal decision. If the recipient has been filled in a lying or bent-over position, standing and moving will move the pressure downward, greatly increasing the pressure on the Bardex and the inside of the sphincter area. The sensation might be a pleasurable pressing on the prostate gland ... or the beginning of cramping -- it depends on the recipient. Motion promotes a more thorough cleansing, increases the sense of fullness and increases the chance of a premature discharge.

The center tube of the Bardex can be clamped off and disconnected from the water supply. Not only does this increase mobility, but it also allows the controlled release of water to reduce a feeling of desperate overfullness, or the inevitability of an "accident." It also assists in the very thorough cleansing of repeated fill-and-discharge cycles with-

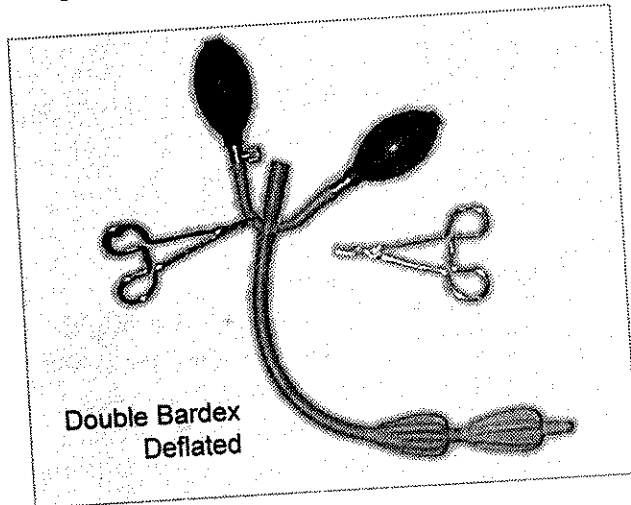
out the irritation of repeated nozzle insertions and inflations.

The Bardex is released by deflating the inner balloon. At some point before complete deflation the internal pressure will force it past the sphincter. The more slowly the balloon deflates, the larger it will be when expelled, and the more explosive the "spew" will be. Stress on the receiver can be reduced by first clamping the air tube, removing the inflation bulb, and releasing the internal air all at once.

CARE OF THE BARDEX

Ideally, a Bardex should be a piece of one-person-only gear. If it can simply be cleaned with mild anti-bacterial soap (tincture of green soap is good) air-dried and hung in a cool dry place, it can last a very long time. If the Bardex is shared, it needs more thorough disinfecting.

The recommended procedure is an overnight soak in a solution of one part household bleach to ten parts water,

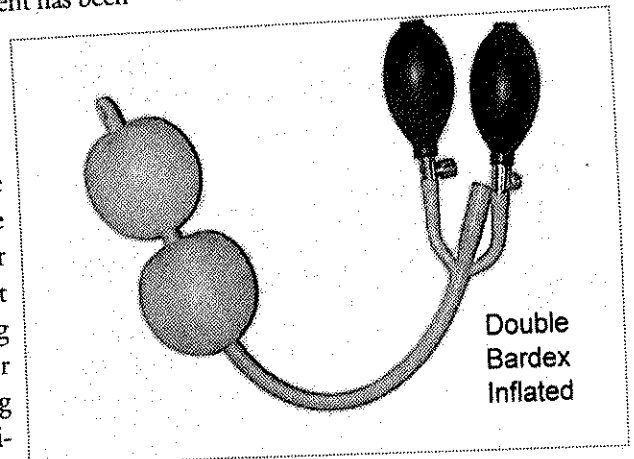


Another shortcoming in the original design is found in the valve of the inflator bulbs. Getting the thumb-wheels tight enough to hold air for nearly an hour is something of an accomplishment ... especially in lube-slick latex gloves. The solution is to use plastic hemostats, which resemble small needle-nose pliers, or plastic hose shut-off clamps designed for the purpose. The hemostats may be easier to handle, the clamps are less bulky. It's a matter of individual choice.

THE BALLOONS

Once the inner balloon is inserted, it is inflated just enough to hold it in place, and a small amount of water is flowed in. At the first sign of leakage, the balloon is inflated a bit more and the nozzle moved "in and out" very slightly (less than 3/4"). This expands and further "seats" the balloon. After a half-quart to three quarters of a quart has gone in, inflation of the outer balloon can begin.

The outer balloon, in theory, presses against the sphincter which in turn presses against the inner balloon, making a very tight seal indeed. It actually works this way for people with very skinny butts. For people with more



followed by soap and water wash and air dry. The bleach will reduce the life expectancy of the latex - but does not leave irritating residue. Would a surgical scrub washing do as good a job? A good enough job? Let your conscience and the specific circumstances of the case be your guide. ♦

(Mitch is *The Guardian's* editor and an enema aficionado. He invites others to share their information and experiences with our readers.)

Enemation: Our Readers Respond

A Professional's View

by Mistress KK

I have read, with much interest, your article on "Enemation." I have a practice in Southern California as a Mistress and Kinky Enema Nurse.

Their love for their enema exceeds even that of the love of sex for most of them, and that is not an exaggeration.

So, as such ... I have a fair bit of enema experience.

It never ceases to amaze me the depth and the *passion* men who are really into enemas, (there are women, too ... but mostly men in my experience) *feel* about enemas. Their love for their enema exceeds even that of the love of sex for most of them, and that is not an exaggeration. Almost all tell similar stories about how their love affair with enemas began, and it is usually rooted in their childhood experiences with a relative (usually mother) and enemas.

Most grew up in the era when mothers did routine enemas for health's sake. Most men mildly enjoyed or tolerated them ... but a certain percentage (maybe those with exceptionally sensitive prostates) grew to love them and be turned on by them to such a degree ... that many mothers, finally realizing, "gosh ... my little boy is liking these a bit *too* much...and is even getting (oh, horrors!) sexually aroused by them," stopped giving them abruptly. And

thus began a lifetime quest to re-create that mother/sexually pleasurable/enema experience over and over.

Many (if not most) look to me as the mother figure, especially when I give them their enemas over my lap with the red and black hand-held bulb and a big bowl of warm soapy water. For me also ... the giving of enemas in this way is a *most* erotic experience ... one ripe with emotionality and intimacy. I have the ultimate control over the penetration and filling of a most sensitive part of their body.

I do not always use hand-held enemas. Often I prefer to use my Double Bardex™ Nozzle and black, open-topped one gallon bag. A Double Bardex Nozzle is a rubber tube with two inflatable bulbs at the end. One inflates to about the size of a peach inside your rectum and the other inflates to a similar size outside your rectum. The result is, you don't have to strain to hold in your enema. The Bardex does it for you! In fact, you *cannot* expel your enema with the Bardex properly installed.

When Clinical Becomes S/M

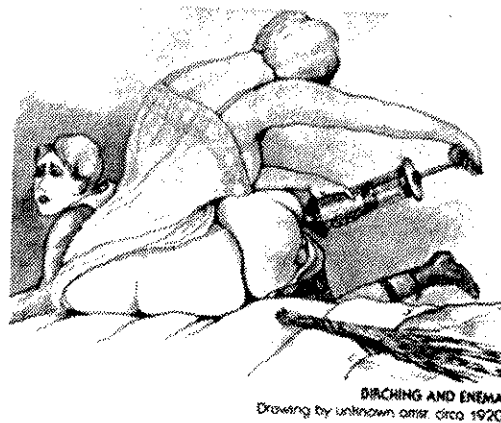
In these scenarios I prefer to place my "patient" into bondage and *then* inflate the Bardex. Now *all* control is mine. He may neither expel nor escape his enema. The amount and duration is mine alone to determine. This is the point at which a clinical enema becomes an S/M enema. I may inflict whatever level of pain I wish with the

cramping I induce with large volumes of hot soapy water.

I have found that the more soap I use, the more intense the cramping. My masochistic enema-loving enthusiasts love it. To them combining bondage, S/M and enemas is an unbeatable combination!

Most men start cramping between one and two quarts of water. And most can not handle more than two quarts. But I *do* have a good number of clients who can handle *significantly* more than two quarts. A good number do take between three and four. I have one client that would be in the *Guinness Book of World Records* if they had an enema category for volume. He regularly takes **six full quarts!!**

It starts like this: He wants to be mothered and be coaxed into his punishment enema with lots of motherly



love. (That is his thing ... reverting no doubt to his childhood experiences.) I always tell him he has been so naughty that, "Mother" has to give him a really BIG punishment enema. He watches me filling a large pan with quite hot and *very* soapy water. I shave Ivory Soap™ into this hot water, dissolving it.

I fill the one-gallon *and* the two-quart bags and hang them from the

towel rack near the bathtub, (that being where he likes to receive these enemas).

The gallon bag goes in first ... the entire thing ... usually with no hitch whatsoever. Then the fun begins as we start on the final two quarts.

Within the first pint he is in virtual agony — cramping with a frightening intensity. I stop and rub his tummy and soothe him, telling him, “Mommy is proud of you for taking this much of your punishment, and *I know* you will not let Mommy down and *will take every last bit* of this final bag, won’t you, honey?” He cries and tells me he loves me and promises me he will. I then put in another cup or so, turn it off and wait while he handles the new wave or intense resulting cramps ... all the time encouraging him and urging him on.

By the time the last of the water is in, he is sweating profusely, sick to his stomach and desperately begging “Mommy” to let him release it.

When I finally do, his abdomen is *so* tight with the water, he must be careful not to bend even the slightest as he moves from tub to toilet. He is in agony and cramping for about 20 minutes as he expels. Afterwards he shakily comes and cuddles up next to Mommy for a while in an absolute *glow* from the effects of that huge punishment enema. When fully recovered, he always says, “*God, that was great!!!*” For him it is an experience beyond any other in life. I think he lives for his enema sessions.

I should add a *caveat* here for noone to *ever* try a 6 quart enema! You might well do physical harm to yourself or your enema partner. This man is an anomaly in his ability to do this. He is truly in a class by himself.

There are many other fun ways I do enemas. I use a long colon tube, dildo nozzles, and I give enemas to men wearing diapers and then let them *fill* them with the enema results.

I hope you have as much fun as I do with your enemas!!

MistressKK@aol.com

A Play-at-Home Couple's Enema Games

by Pierre

We have played with enemas quite a bit, surprised by how varied their effects can be. Face down and straddling my Top's lap with a leg to the side of each of her hips, a moderate, warm enema after a nice dinner and some wine is a sensuous treat for us both. But even if there is some kneading and caressing as the water flows, it is still an unmistakably submissive activity to receive one.

Other times the D/s aspect is even more acute: getting a big one while on all fours and having to hold it for as long as she says. On these occasions I am expected to ask permission to “go.” Considering the potentially explosive circumstances, my Top is usually acquiescent, but occasionally she will surprise with a “No,” and I'll struggle to hold on a bit longer — even as I'm thrilling at the fact that she refused my request.

My Top's favorite twist on this theme is to allow me to kiss her feet for as long as I can hold the enema. This is a great enema game because it allows the bottom to run to the bathroom when necessary, (preventing an unpleasant accident) while still focusing on the Top's authority. Since foot-kissing is a privilege and a loving token of respect, a humble bottom will attempt to last as long as possible. The Top retains a kind of implied control, without having to

rely on mind-reading to prevent a disaster.

Recently, my Top upped the ante and offered her burthole as the tantalizing bait in our enema contest. I was very thrilled a this since access to her hot spot is usually more restricted than Area 51.

It's hard to come up with a more profound gesture of submissive reverence than analingus. What can be more self-deprecating than sticking your tongue up someone's ass? While acutely aware of its powerful symbolism, my Top is somewhat ambivalent about the act itself; sometimes she likes it, sometimes she hates it. But because she knows how much I crave this simple treat, she has learned to expertly manipulate and tease me by offering or withholding this oft-maligned body part. A creative Top can capitalize on the simplest of things.

We started with a bag nearly bursting its vulcanized seams and ran it to paper flatness. Once the tube was removed, my Top turned and offered. Kneeling

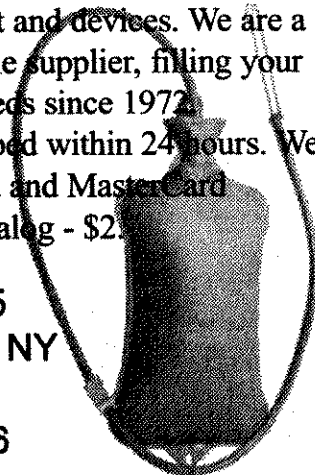
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Hosting a Play Party

How-to's and Hints from Two Experienced Party-Givers and -Goers

by Carolyn and Steve Vakesh

Stephanie and Michelle went to one of New York's "notorious" BDSM clubs while on vacation. Michelle thought it was exciting to get a chance to play in public and try out new equipment. Stephanie on the other hand, was turned off.

"How could anyone concentrate on a scene with all of the voyeurs and weenie-whackers around?" she demanded of her friend.

***Avoid inviting
too many
wall flowers,
but you should
invite some.
... they'll provide
a focus for
non-BDSM activities.***

"Sure, I'd like to play in public, but not with people I don't know."

A "play party" can satisfy both Michelle and Stephanie. A *good* play party offers comfort to people new to BDSM, intimacy for those who wish to play around friends, an opportunity to interact in public while in Dominant/submissive roles, an inside look at other people's playing styles, and a chance to play with toys you've never tried.

If you're waiting for a local BDSM expert to organize the party, take a look in the mirror. If *you* want a party to happen, *you're* the best person to organize it. Most of the details of creating a play party are just common sense. If you've ever had friends in for dinner, you already know much of what you need to host a play party. Nonetheless, there are a few details that you don't need to worry about with a vanilla affair.

Making a Guest list

The best parties begin with the best people. Your guest list should maintain a rough balance of Tops and bottoms (and switches) and singles and couples. Try to invite a number of couples because you know they'll have each other to play with and are probably the best bet to get the action started. They already know each other's desires and quirks and don't need to spend time feeling each other out or negotiating a scene. They also tend to have a stabilizing influence on the play space and provide a focus for interaction. Too *many* couples can make a party static, though. Since many couples tend to play with each other exclusively, you'll lose the excitement of new people exploring each other's boundaries unless you invite singles as well. Singles will also break up some of the blocky groups couples may form and add the quality of the unexpected to your gathering. Avoid inviting too many wall flowers, but you should invite some. Not just to get them involved, but because they'll provide a focus for non-BDSM activities. They'll create a region of relative calm around themselves, keeping



the party from becoming too frenetic.

Guests' guests?

Be sure to specify whether people can bring guests, and if so, how many. It's perfectly acceptable to require them to clear guests ahead of time. People bringing guests are usually responsible for the good behavior of their guests and are expected to leave *with* their guests.

Picking a day and time

Try to avoid holidays —not all of us are estranged from our families. Also avoid the dates of any large BDSM conferences or regional equivalents, unless you're specifically organizing your party in conjunction with the conference. Consider local weather. If your space

isn't air conditioned, you should probably avoid the hottest parts of the summer. And remember, planning your party at night will not guarantee cool weather. One late summer night we were dungeon monitors (DM's) at a play party in an old warehouse where the ambient temperature varied between 100° and 120°, and the humidity rapidly approached 100%! We wandered around with pails of ice water looking for bottoms and Tops overcome by the heat! Frequently, the site will force a time of day (or night) on you. Many of these parties start late at night, some as late as midnight. For whatever reason, BDSMers tend to be night owls.

To preserve the ambience, to allow people to get comfortable and to maintain good relations with the person loaning or renting the site, most parties designate a time after which no one will be admitted. (People are, of course, free to leave at any time.) This is usually about two hours after the party begins. It gives everyone time to get there, and have time to meet each other. Many people will not start play until after the doors close. Some parties make this mandatory to make sure no uninvited guests have snuck in. Most do not. It is common to raise the heat slightly after the doors close to encourage people to disrobe.

Finding a location

Some say you should pick a location central to your guests. We have found this to be much less important when planning play parties. We've had people travel as much as six hours to attend one of our parties.

Still there are some rules of thumb: If you intend to get your guests from people in town for another event such as a nearby BDSM or science fiction convention, be sure the party is close to, or in, the hotel where people will be staying. At events like these, some people won't have cars and will be unfamiliar with your city. If elsewhere, provide

Friendly store owners are an often overlooked option....

excellent directions and a location that is walkable (or at the very least a short cab ride).

Whatever site you pick there are a few questions you need to ask of the owner: Are there any problems with large groups of people or noise? Can people wear fetish attire to the party or do they need to arrive discreetly? Are there any food, alcohol, or beverage restrictions?

Private homes are probably the most common site for small play parties. The main problem here is the neighbors. Will they respond to screams in the night by calling the police, or by dropping by to see why they weren't invited? If your parties become popular, though, you'll quickly outgrow a home.

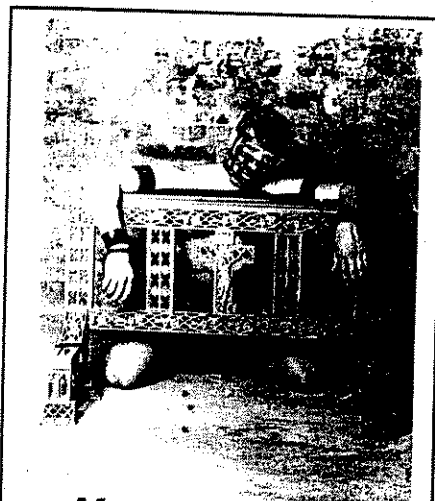
Hotel suites are a common alternative for small parties, but they come with many problems. If you intend just a small, quiet party it should be enough — and there's a maid to clean up after you! Parties at hotels generally have to be much more discreet than those at other locales, though it has become common to have play parties at science fiction conventions — who's going to notice a few more strangely dressed people? If you plan a larger party, many hotels will allow you the use of their conference or ball rooms at little or no cost as long as enough of your guests rent rooms in the hotel. Even then, hotels will expect people moving between their rooms and the ballroom to dress discreetly. It is possible to "four-wall" a hotel, that is reserve all the rooms in the hotel for your event only. (See "Somewhere a Place for Us," in *Guardian* Issue #25)

Bars are also a popular location for parties, especially the ubiquitous leather bars. The usual problem with them is

scheduling a private party. (Unless they have a "back room" that can be used, separate from the main bar area.) You'll need to schedule it for a time when the bar is usually closed. This is not likely to be a convenient time — unless your state has blue laws. Then Sunday night (especially of a three day weekend) becomes an option, but be sure there is *no* access to the alcohol — that could get the guests arrested and the bar closed for violating the blue laws.

You might want to make friends with a local "pro dom." Many have made considerable investments in space and dungeon furniture. You'll get a good, well-equipped site, and she might get some new clients. Be *absolutely cer-*

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Party Planning

continued from page 11

tain no money changes hands during the party, as the vice squad may already be watching the establishment. Discreetly inquire if she's had any trouble with local law enforcement. Laws governing their activities are actually not a reliable guide as police departments are notoriously unpredictable in their attitude toward professional dominance. Rentable space is one of the more expensive ways to go, but many places are available for an evening. This can be as simple as the club house of an apartment complex (frequently cheap or free for residents) to empty warehouses that are frequently rented for all sorts of large gatherings. Generally the more facilities available (like water and restrooms), and the larger the facility, the more you'll pay. As with hotels, the owners will usually expect your guests to come and go in an unobtrusive manner.

Friendly store owners are an often overlooked option. Like bars, they force your party into the hours when the store is closed, but these are often better hours. Many have large back areas, basements, or extra rooms they aren't using. Obviously you will have to find a way to limit access to merchandise areas, or police it, but this is fairly easy. In our experience, stores are the best sites of all. They are usually climate-controlled, located in easy-to-find areas and are inexpensive. In addition, the proprietors may be open to non-cash negotiations. Some may not be involved in BDSM but fascinated by the activities nonetheless. One year, Carolyn held her birthday play party in the basement of the local occult shop. She offered to clean the space in exchange for its use for her party. The shop owner accepted, adding only two conditions: he had to be invited, and there could be no firearms present. Obviously the second condition was easy to guarantee since we also didn't want to be at a party where guns were present.

We agreed to the first condition with a bit more trepidation. Would he be offended by our activities? Would the presence of a non-scene person offend our guests? We needn't have worried. The shop owner clearly enjoyed himself talking with the people, watching the scenes and eating the *hors d'oeuvres*. His skills with people and as a *raconteur* made our guests feel welcome. Later he invited us to use his space for a party anytime.

Designing the Space

Before you enter the play space, it is best to have an area in which no play

**Spanking benches
are popular,
and the better ones
are easy
to transport.**

takes place. It should be in a quiet area so people can talk and of course negotiate scenes. This is the place to lay out any food or drinks. *Keep all food away from play areas.* You don't want to have to explain why there's guacamole on someone's brand new \$300 whip!

Smoking - A Hot Topic!

Just as in the vanilla world, cigarette (and now cigar) smoking has become a divisive issue in the BDSM community. Typically, parties follow the preference of the host. This causes problems in putting together your guest list. Many non-smokers will refuse to attend a party at which there is smoking, while smokers will not attend parties that have made no provision for their addiction. Remember, because most parties close the doors after a certain hour, having the smokers step outside is not an

option. Regardless of your personal preference, you should keep smoking away from the play area. Many people are allergic to, or otherwise bothered by smoke, and cigarettes can be dangerous in dimly lit rooms with naked submissives and vulnerable leather toys.

Multi-Area Space

Most small parties have one large play area which contains most, if not all of the equipment. You might want to set up a few more private play areas or screen off parts of a larger area to create places of greater privacy. Some people prefer to play without the attentions of an audience. Some scenes (piercing or cutting, for example) require an area free from outside disturbances and distractions. People new to public play may prefer to break into it slowly.

Equipment

This brings us to the play equipment. You need to have at least some, or it won't be much of a party. Still, you can actually get away with surprisingly little and much of the equipment can be quickly improvised. If you're allowed to, drive bolts into the ceiling for suspension. Strong rope over exposed ceiling beams works just as well and is easy to set up and remove. (Pad the beam to avoid fraying the rope.) Support pillars are common in warehouses and many large structures, and are useful for supporting or restraining, but be sure they're actually solid, load-bearing pillars rather than the simply decorative ones common in hotels and convention centers. Many hotels have dropped ceilings with acoustical tile. If you can remove the tiles, you'll often be able to get to the steel support beams behind them. A C-clamp attached to an I-beam should be able to hold just about anyone.

Floor pillows can be borrowed or cheaply purchased and are useful for any number of scenes. Chairs and other sturdy furniture are also useful if not essential, but a play party is not the

continued

... the rules are up to you, but ... Making a snap decision during the party to stop a scene is sure to offend people.

place to leave any old, wobbly furniture. You never know who's going to be bent over what! Bring sheets to protect anything you care about. Be sure to test everything you rig *before* the party. You should encourage people to bring their own safe sex supplies, but it's always best to have some condoms and other supplies on hand.

With luck you'll be able to beg, borrow or make a few more sophisticated pieces of equipment. Spanking benches are popular, and the better ones are easy to transport. (There are plans to make one in *The Guardian*, Issue #19. Other back issues have other ideas for homemade equipment.) Professional bondage furniture manufacturers make folding, easily transportable benches and crosses. Perhaps one in your area would let you borrow some equipment for the night in exchange for a small rental fee or advertising and display of brochures. Folding massage tables are also popular, and you may be able to borrow one. Slings have long been a mainstay of parties and frequently become the center of attraction (that is the people in them), *if* you have solid anchor points for them.

The Ambience

Try to avoid overcrowding the space. You need to leave room for people to play! If you're not going to have room for some toys (bull whips, for instance) tell people *not to bring them*. It will save problems later. You'll also need to leave paths for traffic flow, as well as the crowds that will gather around hot scenes or interesting pieces of equipment.

The two things you usually can control are the music and the lighting. Music that is *too* loud will make it

impossible for partners to hear one another during a scene; too soft and it is an irritating distraction rather than a mood enhancement. Moderately loud music *does* have the advantage of insulating scenes from one another, lessening distractions, and giving a semblance of privacy. Most play spaces are simply too dark! You should keep the main lights low for ambience, but provide portable lights for individual scenes. You can find handy clip-on spotlights or Snakelights™ at the hardware store. Experienced people might bring flashlights with them.

Dress and Etiquette

Many parties require attendees to dress in either fetish or formal attire. Theme parties, such as medieval feasts, have their own special dress requirements. Even if you don't have specific dress, you'll need to provide a place for people to change clothes. Not everyone will want to arrive in fetish wear. Others may wish to change their outfits during the course of the party.

More important are the general rules for your party. Are you going to restrict play in any way or limit certain types of scenes to certain areas? People planning messy scenes like waxing should *always* bring a sheet or tarp to protect the space and make clean-up easier. Fire play is often prohibited in bars and hotels and may not be safe in your living room. Obviously the rules are up to you, but you need to give them serious consideration *before* the party. Making a snap decision during the party to stop a scene is sure to offend people. Once you have the rules, you need to decide how they will be enforced. Some parties have dungeon

monitors ("DM's"), people deputized by the host to enforce the rules and discourage scenes which violate them. Others run just fine without them. If you know all the people who are coming and trust them to play within the bounds of reasonable safety, you probably won't need DM's. If there will be a lot of strangers, or *you* intend to play, you could probably use a few extra pairs of eyes to watch things. To make their job easier, you might want to have a house "safe-word." Rules are often less important than basic scene etiquette in making a party a success. But, don't assume that everyone is familiar with it — you're liable to be surprised. If you're sending out invitations, include a rough guide to scene etiquette and any special instructions for your party.

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Radical Sex Photos

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It is the weekend before the BIG EVENT. I am going to the Hellfire Club for the very first time!

A Virgin's Descent into Hellfire

A novice's first visit to a club

by Michelle Wilson

It has been a year since I began to get involved in the "scene." Indeed, until I found the "English Palace" (BBS) where BDSM types can meet and chat, to me "scene" meant something one wanted to avoid in a restaurant. I was 35 years old when I found the courage to "come out," and tell the world (or at least the BDSM cyber-world) that I am a submissive and very happy to be so!

The delightful, open reception I have received has been more than gratifying; it has literally helped set me free to express my true self without shame or fear. In fact, it was while "on-line" that I met the man who is my true love, and my Master.

It is with this man — I shall call him "Bill" — that I am going to **The Original Hellfire Club**. I have never been there, but I have heard a great deal about it from friends. Gathering together the scraps of information from hither and yon, I have formed a definite impression of what it is going to be like. Some of it will probably be accurate; some of it certainly exists only in my own fantasies. And next week, I will be there!

I already have my dress. It is a low-cut, black velvet gown, with a slit up to the mid-thigh. Hugging my body to the hip, it then flares out gently to the ground. I'll wear black heels of course, and stockings. And my collar, a lovely silver necklace that I never remove. Hair down, a little makeup, red lipstick. This is going to be a night to remember! So read on. And if you are

new to the scene, as I am, perhaps this will help you decide if you want to go to a BDSM club yourself sometime to check it out. And if all this is old hat to you, read it through my eyes, and remember your own "first time."

The Reality

Well. It's the day *after* my visit to the Hellfire Club. I am exhausted and not completely certain yet as to my impressions. Perhaps it is like sex the first time: you wait, wondering, nervous-

**Perhaps it is like
sex the first time:
...The act often
falls far short
of the romance
of the anticipation.**

ly anticipating that first experience.

That "loss" which will be your entrance to adulthood. But the actual event, for many of us, is something of a letdown. The act often falls far short of the romance of the anticipation. But then in retrospect, you remember it, I hope, with some fondness. You look back and say to yourself, Ah, yes, I remember my first time...

New York City, 9th Ave., between 13th-14th Streets. 10:30 PM. A lone individual of indeterminate gender,

dressed in fatigues, keeps watch outside the building, perched on a bar stool.

We are gestured down a set of steep concrete



stairs to the basement door.

Upon entering, we pay \$30, the price for a couple. (Had Bill dressed as a woman, we could have gotten in free, but who knew?) We receive a few thousand "Hellfire Bucks" with which to bid on the slaves in the auction to be held later in the evening. And we receive the "sex laws" of New York City which inform us that no fellatio or oral, vaginal or anal intercourse is allowed.

Immediately as you enter, there are little booths to the left, where scenes presumably take place, though at the young hour of 11:00 pm there were as yet no takers. We checked our coats and entered a dimly lit, smoky room in which milled a motley crew of folk, both dressed and undressed for the occasion. In the center of the room is a small bar, which serves soft drinks and coffee. Alcohol is not available: a drunken dominant wielding a whip is probably not something one wants to encourage at this sort of establishment.

At a large table off to the side, a group of people sat laughing and talking together. Upon closer inspection, I

continued

noticed that one of the women was completely naked, save for her practical sandals, an ankle bracelet, and as she later informed me, a clit ring. This woman is a regular at the club and spends much of her time in just such a state of undress. Her Master, also a regular, was there as well. The woman greeted me enthusiastically as she hugged me to her. I hugged her back. It could have been a church social or a Haddassah meeting, except for the fact that she was naked! I was acquainted with both of them from the BBS and it was interesting to put a face, and, er, a body, with the heretofore anonymous text displaying on my computer screen. Along with them were several women, scantily clad, mostly in leather, with the appropriate steel ring embedded here and there. A few men, fully dressed, also sat at the table, laughing and talking. Occasionally one would reach over and grab a breast or whatever was handy, of one of the submissive women. They didn't seem to mind it.

The "sadistic repairman," straight from my imagination, was *actually* there, with his tools dangling from his belt! At the bar there stood a solitary fellow or two. One was a rather slight gentleman, in his mid thirties, with nothing on but a G-string. Another man looked to be about 50. He was in a pullover sweater and blue pants. He looked like a nervous accountant from the suburbs. His eyes darted here and there, as if he were a peeping Tom, guiltily gawking at the people who, in fact, were there for the gawking! My favorite character was a man of about 75. He was wandering about, completely naked, save for black socks and shoes. The scene was reminiscent of the men you see in your neighborhood, riding a lawn mower around their yards, in Bermuda shorts with their work socks and shoes on. *Sans* the Bermuda shorts, of course. While the effect was less than erotic to me, one

... we found a few slave types ... stoically enduring a whipping. Some ... looked to be little more than a "leather massage."

does have to admire his courage. He had the desire and pluck to present himself in this way for all who cared to see (and even those who didn't). And one must also appreciate the fact that the Hellfire Club itself, and other clubs like it, provide people like him a place where they can express that aspect of their sexuality without fear of reprisal or embarrassment.

Several other men were milling about, looking lost and rather sad. They would wander, with baleful expressions, as if they had no idea where they were, and certainly no idea of what to do, if they figured it out. As I had imagined, the walls were lined with interesting equipment of all types, designed to secure the most recalcitrant slave. There

was a real Harley-Davidson motorcycle secured to the ground, for taking one's slave on a ride I suppose. There were boots hanging upside-down from the ceiling. These, we surmised, were for the adventurous Tops who wished to whip their slaves upside-down. (The *slaves*, that is.)

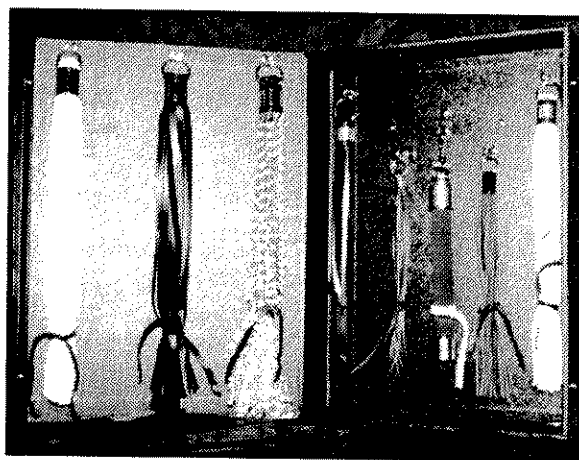
There was a whip collection to rival any would-be S/M museum. As we took a little tour of the place, we found a few slave types hung by their wrists, stoically enduring a whipping. Some of the so-called whippings looked to be little more than a "leather massage." But one or two were in fact the real McCoy and I could feel my own tension rise as I watched the beating take place.

continued on page 16

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TOYS FOR THE CURIOUS-MINDED

taken aback when Bill pointed out a man in a corner, sitting in a chair, pants around his ankles. He was furiously masturbating, presumably to the scene nearby. There, in his line of vision, a middle-aged woman was being whipped and teased with leather and cane. Seeing him there, I blushed and quickly turned away. In retrospect it is rather amusing that I was embarrassed by such a "common" sort of thing, far more than by the playful torture of naked slaves all around me. I think it was the sexual aspect of it that caught me by surprise. I felt as if I shouldn't be watching him, even though he obviously didn't mind a bit. The various whippings and playing going on around him, however, seemed rather posed. The people were all silent, and the slaves invariably seemed almost lifeless, like mannequins.

Standing clustered about them were silent, serious-looking men, hands limply at their sides, watching, just watching.

I think that is what struck me as sad about the place. There was very little talking and laughing among the guests. Most people seemed to be lost. They just stood about or wandered from here to there, lonely and alone. Aside from the group of regulars, it was a baleful bunch.

But I also think I give the place

short shrift. We left, you see, at the witching hour. As midnight approached, I found myself nodding off. I had awakened at 5:30 that morning and now I felt myself, like the girl in the fable, fast approaching the moment when my slipper would fall as I dashed from the scene.

What might have been

I should have stayed. I should have stayed to see the Slave Auction. To per-

**... the romance
was missing,
at least for me ...
But I remain
intrigued.**

haps see the doleful men suddenly come alive at the chance to "buy" a girl or boy for a brief moment. To pretend that they in fact were a Master, with all that title implies. Or for nervous, lonely would-be submissives to place themselves on the block. A chance to find, that they were desired, and even fought over, however illusory the battle, however temporary the spoils.

Instead I left, perhaps just as these night folks were awakening. But I can

tell you this: I will be back. And this time I will stay. And maybe even play. As I sit here writing this, and musing on the events of the evening, I find myself wondering, will it be my turn next time? Will I be the one shackled and spread while my Master whips me for all to see? Will I exhibit as much grace as these women did? While it is easy to judge those I was watching, it feels a bit different to ponder my own behavior in a similar situation.

So much for my first visit to the infamous **Hellfire Club**. It wasn't what I expected, exactly. I was dreaming of the adventure of all these free spirits engaged in spectacular SM scenes. I was hoping for the glamour of all the cool people standing about with a studied air of *ennui*, casually observing those lucky few being whipped and tormented for their pleasure and titillation. To be sure, there was something of that. And there was a certain relaxed camaraderie among a few obvious regulars. But the romance was missing, at least for me. And the loneliness of the many seemed to overshadow the frolicking of a few. But I remain intrigued. I look forward to getting to know the place better.

Maybe next time I will go all in white, a shimmering contrast to the black leathered gang. I always did like to make a splash. See you there? ♦

(Michelle was fortunate to interview author Philip Miller for Guardian Issue #24 shortly before his death last year.)

ALTERNATIVE PEER PRESSURE

—KDPierre



The Consensual "Slave Auction"

What It is and How to Organize It

by Sir Adam

Frightened yet still oddly expectant, the slave knelt, bare except for leather collar and cuffs. Bidders eyes glinted ... greedy, calculating, or indifferent — in the anonymous darkness beyond the spotlights that transfixed the slave.

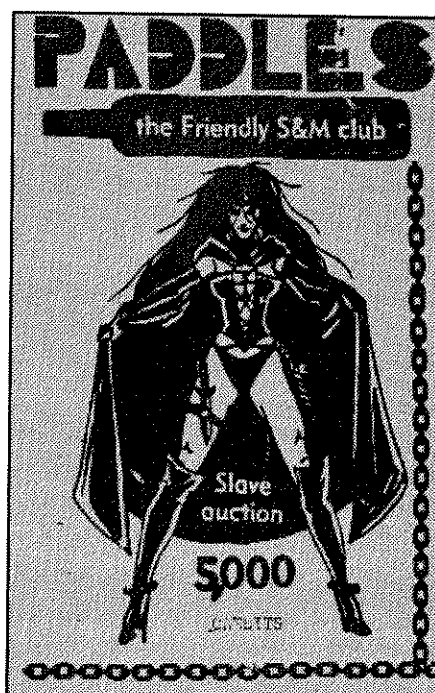
The start of a "Gor" novel? No, this is a somewhat embellished description of a modern "Slave Auction" — of the consensual kind. For many years these events were the monthly highlight of the activities of NY's club Paddles. While other clubs and membership organizations have mounted Slave Auctions of their own, the Paddles Auction as practiced by Mistress Donni of Paddles was, "the real thing," the most successful and best-attended until the end of the '80's.

Origins of the Auction

The Paddles Slave Auction did not originate in the BDSM scene. Its roots lie in college fraternity fundraising. There were countless variations, but the theme was consistent: People normally thought of as "higher status" were "sold" to people of lower status for the benefit of a charity or a school activity. Seniors, club officers, faculty, occasionally even Deans or Presidents were auctioned off, "bound" to perform humorous and mildly menial services for their buyers. The tasks might be to carry lunch trays or books, to prepare special meals, or even to bring not-too-late-night snacks to the "owner's" dormitory room.

The musical "Oklahoma!" depicts an earlier and more eroticized version of

the same general idea. Ostensibly, the bidders were contending for picnic baskets, rather than for the women who



prepared them. But, since the lady's company (for the duration of the picnic) was included in the package ... these events became part of the courtship rituals of frontier couples.

Running the Auction

The most important thing to remember about a Slave Auction is that it is supposed to be fun! It is a kind of "mixer" which encourages people to play with partners, and in ways, that they might not otherwise even consider. Like a roller-coaster, it should be a "scary" experience — but not a threatening one. The organizer's chief challenge is to identify and defuse the elements that their particular crowd may

perceive as danger or disrespect.

The medium of exchange is generally "play money" having no intrinsic value and representing no particular value. This too keeps the proceedings from becoming "too real" for comfort ... and in some states prevents possible legal issues. Sometimes real money has been used when the auction has been organized for the support of a recognized charity.

Generally this means establishing limits and demonstrating that they will be upheld. The usual protections are:

1) Scenes will be done at the site of the auction only. Noone goes home with anyone.

2) The twin concerns of "infection" and "infidelity" demand respect. In some gatherings a "safe sex only" rule will be enough. More often, a total ban on "intimate touching" will be appreciated ... even if it is occasionally "stretched a bit." It is better to make the standard a little too strict and have players discreetly re-negotiate it than to make it too lax and have the expectation of uninvited groping discourage participation.

3) There is a "House Safeword" and people who will enforce it.

4) "Sellers" may establish any additional conditions or "terms of sale." Personal limits will be respected.

Naturally the rules and conditions of the event should be announced at the event ... but it is better if the guests know them ... along with any helpful suggestions about dress and demeanor ... *before* they arrive.

It ought to, "go without saying," that the event should start at the time

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Slave Auction

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announced. More often it's said without being heard. The original Paddles Auctions were scheduled for 11 pm in a club that closed at 4 am. Over the years, the closing time got earlier, and the Auction's starting time got later and later, until an Auction scheduled for 12 midnight actually started at 1:15 am, took an hour or more — and the club closed at 3:00 am. That was hardly worth undressing for!

Auction Dress/Un-Dress

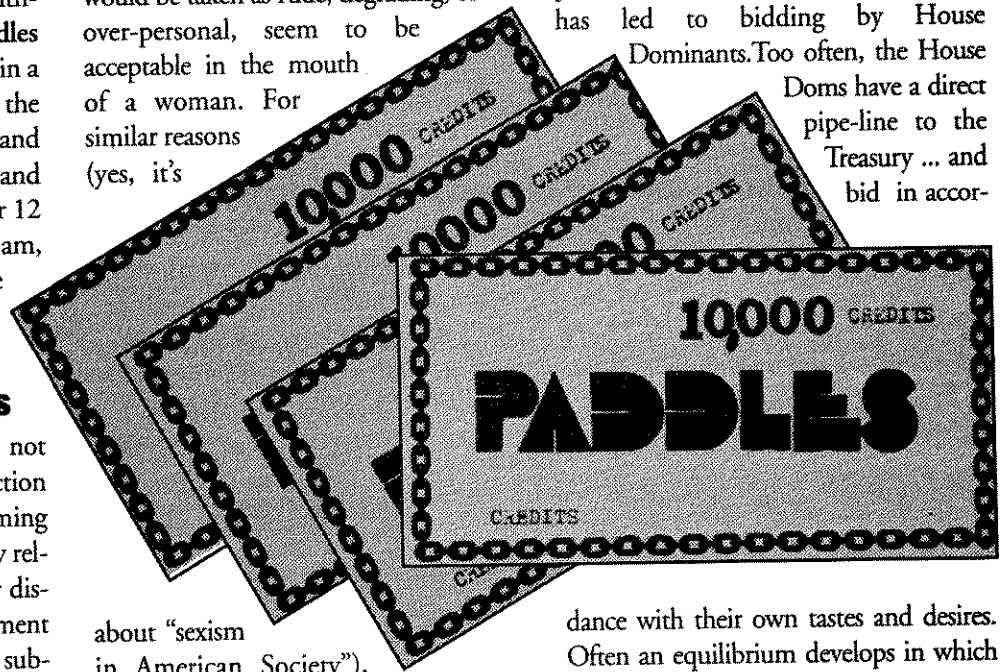
And speaking of undressing ... not everyone wanting to be sold at auction necessarily owns the kind of costuming that attracts bidders. Men, especially relative newcomers, are at a particular disadvantage without a costly investment in straps and clamps. The scope of submissive dress for women is much wider. Indeed, a collar of any kind worn with almost any party clothing will at least pass, as will most women's underwear.

A clever Auction organizer might provide simple costumes ... a pair of burlap aprons, tied front and back to cover a man, however ample his girth. A woman might be presented with another apron tied around the neck or an open-sided rabbard. The coarse cloth together with the absence of cut and styling makes this kind of garment authentically slave-like — and strategic portions may be easily lifted for a quick look at whatever needs to be seen.

The Auctioneer

The personality of the Auctioneer will have a great effect on the success of the Auction. Introducing and interviewing the "Property" before the actual bidding starts is part of what the crowd comes for. They want a bawdy stand-up comic, not a dour Prince of Darkness. Historically, women seem to have been the most crowd-pleasing auctioneers. Remarks that, made by a man

would be taken as rude, degrading, or over-personal, seem to be acceptable in the mouth of a woman. For similar reasons (yes, it's



about "sexism in American Society"), women are given more scope in how and where and whom they may touch, and what physical characteristics they may comment on.

Prices and Money Policy

The second most important thing to remember is that the Auction needs to be "fair" — at least to the extent that every bidder has some chance of success and that every Property is more or less assured of being purchased. In working toward that ideal, organizing an auction can be an instructive experiment in sexual politics and economics.

In a heterosexual venue, Female Property will command prices 10 to 100 times greater than all but the most exceptional Male Property. (In Lesbian or Gay venues, a relative scale of Youth and Beauty is similarly valued, but as the gradations are more subtle, the price range is more evenly distributed.)

In a pure free-market auction, this quickly leads to the "Owners" of the most desirable Properties quickly gaining control of the money supply and

the Auction degenerates into a "swap meet" among a minority of players. At the same time, the obvious need to make provision for the un-bid-upon volunteers has led to bidding by House Dominants. Too often, the House

Doms have a direct pipe-line to the Treasury ... and bid in accor-

dance with their own tastes and desires. Often an equilibrium develops in which guest Tops and House Doms are bidding against each other ... with the rest of the room excluded, bored, and resentful.

Different methods have been tried to offset this. Early in the Paddles experience, Auction money could be obtained in a variety of ways. Other events during the month offered large play money prizes to participants. Play

**... organizing an
auction can be
... instructive ...in
sexual politics
and economics.**

money was distributed with every paid admission, and with every bar purchase. On slower nights, the amount was increased. Although not ideal, this system gave the most advantage to "regulars" rather than to "Masters." Oddly, when the most paper was in circulation, the largest number of the most desir-

continued

Slave Auction

able Properties participated in the auctions. As the club grew lax about putting money into circulation, the number of prime slaves also declined.

Selling additional credits for *real* money was tried, resulting in the greatest advantage going to those with the most desire *and* cash on hand. A situation soon arose in which buyers with a hundred *real* dollars worth of expecta-

**(if) cartels
are allowed ...
This leads to people
with the most friends
having the best
chance of success**

tions met sellers with *no* dollars worth of intentions. It had most of the drawbacks of sex-with-strangers-for-pay, with none of the pecuniary advantages!

Another method, issuing credits good for that auction only, with everyone getting the same amount, has also been tried. It also leads to control by a few Tops and House Doms. Sometimes "cartels" are allowed so groups of people pool their credits to make a purchase. This leads to people with the most friends having the best chance of success ... and the promise of a built-in audience for the resulting scene as well. However, bidding by House Doms has been known to upset even that advantage.

Solutions

An ideal solution would be to increase the supply of the most desired Properties (usually Female Submissives) rather than tinker with the money supply. If anyone knows how this can be done, it would be a public service to

continued from pg 18

reveal the secret. The provisional answer is that the more confidence the guests have in the Auction's ability to introduce players to other congenial and friendly players, the more desirable the Properties will be.

In organizational settings, credits have been distributed in return for participation in projects, attending business meetings or doing the organizational scut-work. This system has the virtue of giving the advantage to the best-known group members ... some of whom become better known by the very participation that brought them the credits. This assumes that people would prefer to be sold to more familiar faces rather than strangers — which is, to a point, true.

Price Control

However, to build confidence in an auction, and thus attract biddable volunteers, I suggest Price Control. The auctioneer will need an additional assistant. There will be a fixed limit to the amount that can be bid, established by random chance, known only by the assistant. When a bid is offered that *exceeds* the limit, the *previous high bidder* is declared the winner. It is the same principle that governs the television game show, "The Price is Right."

The limit must be set low enough that most of the guests will have a chance to win any offered Property most of the time. Sometimes, however, the luck of the draw will decree that there is no limit and the highest bid will win.

The prices can be pre-printed on slips of paper and a "drawing" held by each Property before the bidding begins. (Without his/her knowledge, of course.)

Or, use a deck of cards to establish the pre-determined price. Multiply by 10 or 100 to make it "interesting." The Ace or the Joker can be a "no limit" card.

The exact method is not as impor-

tant as the concept of keeping the auction and the Properties within reach of the majority of the attendees. If too many people get shut out, for whatever the reason, it stops being fun and starts being an imposition on the partygoers. That can be deadly to any party. ♦

(Mitch has been a regular attendee at auctions for ten years, and a guest auctioneer at Paddles on several occasions.)

Editors Note:

Paddles meets the first and third Saturdays at *The Steel Chamber*, 17 West 18th St. 2nd Fl. NYC.

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For more information see Issue #23 of *The Guardian*.

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Wrappers, Plain and Fancy

A Gripping Experience Awaits You!

by Sheela Ardrian

When I needed some rope and a riding crop for my toy bag recently, I visited my local Farm and Feed and went back to the equestrian section where I happened to notice a new display rack. It held what looked like rolls of nylon crepe paper in about a dozen different colors. Closer inspection revealed them as, "Vetrap™" a product designed for protecting the lower legs of horses.

A little light went on in my head! I brought home several rolls in assorted colors. Enlisting the aid of my partner, I proceeded to playtest the product. It worked beautifully as a bondage toy. I added it to my bag permanently and it has met with resounding approval from numerous other playmates.

Some time later, while flipping through catalogs, I discovered a number of other products intended for horse legs which also make excellent bondage gear. Some are crinkly synthetics that cling to themselves. Others are fleece or cotton, and require pins or clips. Many have Velcro™ closures. Some stretch; others don't. You can find material for all uses. Most brands cost a lot less than the sort of stuff you buy in adult toy stores. I surveyed my collection to find the following options:

Vetrap™: My original discovery remains a favorite, in part because each roll comes in its own plastic wrapper. I love this for safe-sex play since it not only starts out clean, you can throw it away after use. You can also rewind it onto the cardboard core and reuse it, but it tends to stick to itself. Vetrap™ is

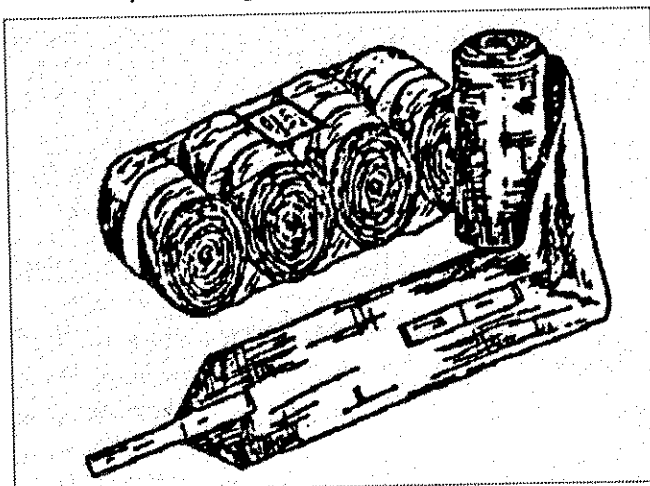
a stretchy, synthetic material that clings to itself *and only itself* — not to skin or hair or your best latex garb. The tricky part lies in getting the tension just right. It comes off the roll crinkled; the wrinkles help it adhere. If you stretch it too tight, it doesn't stick well; if you leave it too loose, it doesn't provide adequate bondage. Fortunately, you can afford to practice. The material is cool, lightweight and comfortable; it does not absorb moisture and comes in teal, red, gold, green, hot pink, orange, white, blue, black, brown and purple. Sizes are 5 yards by 2 or 4". Prices range from \$1.29 to \$3.50 per roll, usually under \$2.00.

CoFlex™: This one also sticks only to itself. It maintains its width better when stretched and has less tendency to curl at the edges — a nice factor if you plan to reuse the roll. Non-irritating and breathable, it too offers comfortable bondage. Co-Flex™ comes in white, blue, tan, yellow, hot pink, neon green, safety orange, red, green, peach, purple and teal. Sizes are 5 yards by 2, 4 or 6". Prices range from \$1.12 to \$4.99 depending on the width.

Equisport™: Similar in material and performance to the others, but available only in white, 5 yards by 4". Useful if you can't find anything better, but costs more and offers no compensating

improvements in quality. Price \$3.49.

Expandover Power-Lite™: This elastic adhesive tape offers extra strength in a lightweight design; it also boasts a stronger adherence factor. The tension is easier to get right, making it a good beginner's brand. It does cost more



than the others, but you get much more selection in widths. Sizes are 5 yards by 1, 2, 3, 4, or 6". Prices: \$1.19 to \$11.49.

Guard-Tex™ Wrapping Tape: This waterproof latex gauze holds firmly but does not feel sticky; like the cling wraps, it adheres only to itself. This one costs more, but offers features the others don't. It only comes in a beige tone, but the rolls are 3" wide by 10 yards long. You don't need as many rolls to bind someone, and they come in packages of four for \$17.25 to \$21.99.

Polo Wraps: Moving out of the self-cling wraps, you find some nice cloth wraps suitable for various uses. These are usually made of brushed fleece with velcro closures. Unlike the cling wraps, these are fully reusable and

continued

Wrappers

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made to last, washable and colorfast. They come in sets of four and don't stretch as much as the cling wraps. Size and color vary depending on where you buy them, as does price. I found three different sets in my catalogs. One was 8 feet long by 4.75 inches wide for \$11.95. Others varied in length and color options.

For mummification,
I prefer wraps
over any other material.
... you can really render
someone immobile

Track Bandages: Usually made of cotton or cotton blend knit with elastic, these possess superior spring and stretch. Kits will run or ravel if snagged, so take care around buckles and such. Washable and reusable, they offer a good non-binding alternative to the cling wraps, gentle on the skin and they come in sets of four. Colors vary, but sizes and prices seem closer together. I found them in 4" width and 8 and 9 foot lengths, ranging from \$9.99 to \$14.99 and a wide range of colors.

Flannel Wraps: Especially good for delicate skin, these soft and fluffy wraps do not stretch much. They provide a lot more padding effect than the other wraps do. Look for overlock stitching on the edges to prevent fraying. Flannel wraps usually come in sets of four with Velcro™ closures, but you may find that some take pins. The ones I saw were 6" wide by 12' long and in white only, for \$15.95.

Dura Soft Bandage™: A special blend of 70% polyester and 30% rayon with lycra elastic gives this wrap an incredible two-way stretch. Non-sticking and comfortable, this reusable wrap

combines the advantages of stretch and fabric options. Better yet, it will not unravel if torn or snagged. No color options, but priced well, in 2, 4, and 6" by 5 yards, from \$1.69 to 3.49.

Cold Water Wraps: Besides bondage, wraps are wonderful for temperature play. These 100% cotton wraps have a special tight weave to retain more water for longer periods of time.

They don't offer size or color options, but the unique water retention property offers plenty of potential. Soak in ice water for an exciting effect; perfect for draping over all sorts of "swellings," or over freshly-reddened skin. These wraps are 9' long in tan with velcro closures, \$12.99 for a set of four.

Champ™ Cold Wrap: A nifty scientific marvel highlights this product — a reusable cold pack activated by a simple squeeze! Upon activation, it drops to a chilling 27° F! No risk of frostbite, just an icy surprise. Imagine the yelps you could get from this! Also, the wrap itself insulates well, making the cold last longer. This reusable wrap is machine washable and dryer safe. Wraps well singly: 6" by 1 yard with fastener at \$9.99.

Champ™ Hot Wrap: At the other end of the spectrum, heat offers a completely different stimulus. This reusable wrap offers safe, moist heat and is both machine washable and dryer safe. You can even microwave it to heat it up, or dunk it in hot water. Wraps well singly, 4" by 1 yard with fastener at \$9.99.

Finally, if you try out a variety of wraps and discover that you love them (either giving or receiving), there is one other product you should consider. *Jeffers Equine Catalog* offers a crank tool for rewinding wraps quickly and

smoothly. It mounts on the wall and costs \$9.25. Believe me, if you play with wraps often, you'll want one. They tangle worse than Ace™ bandages and the cling wraps cling to themselves anywhere!

Using Wrappers

Now that you know what the market carries, let's discuss usage. I like wraps because they offer unique bondage possibilities as well as good, affordable materials for old favorites.

You can quite readily bind a person's arms or legs together with several cling wraps, a much more secure effect than any but the best, most restrictive bags. Bottoms love the "huggy" feel of the stretch wraps.

For mummification, I prefer wraps over any other material. Wraps work beautifully for binding someone to any type of frame, especially a futon frame or a piece of erotic furniture, such as an X-frame. You just wrap the strip snugly around limb and beam both. The broad contact area makes it impossible to wriggle out of; you can really render someone immobile with this stuff. Around the waist, firm springy wraps make a fine corset substitute. Non-stretchy wraps are great for simple ties and for padding under other restraints.

Safety

The safety factors also appeal to me. Most of the cling wraps, and even some of the others, are cheap enough that you won't hesitate to cut someone out. Also, emergency scissors or even regular household scissors go right through the lighter wraps, and only the heaviest should put up moderate resistance. Leather takes some effort to hack through even with emergency scissors, though they will go through. It does take a while to unwrap the cling material, so leave time for that if you plan to reuse it; if you're in a hurry, cut it! The closures, however, come off fairly fast.

Furthermore, the broad surface area

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Wrappers

continued from pg 21

of wrappings helps to prevent injury and circulation loss by spreading out the tension. With rope, you have to worry about the cord cutting into flesh; the narrower the diameter, the worse the problem. Rope also leaves more distinct marks, and they don't look like anything but rope marks. A fairly light wrap leaves shallow marks, which look like those left by your socks, or like fabric imprints in your skin after you sleep in your clothes. For sensitive skin, use the soft cloth wraps either by themselves or *under* the clings.

Being Creative

Decorative bondage fans have undoubtedly leapt ahead of me here: These wonderful toys give a welcome

break from the unrelenting black that dominates scene equipment. Occasionally you may spot other shades; here you have a whole palette to choose from. Wrap your sissy-slave in neon pink. Use two contrasting colors to mummify your favorite Bottom in an alternating herringbone pattern. Clashing colors make great humiliation elements, particularly for color-conscious or well-dressed submissives. Use wraps to color-code bottoms and submissives at play parties. Hold a contest to see who can come up with the most attractive, most hideous, or most complicated wrapping design. Send your slave home wearing your colors under his or her clothes!

The hot and cold wraps provide

attention-getting temperature contrasts. If you want to slow things down, cool his rising desire with a lapful of frigid fabric! The cold wraps make fine chastity belts when used in this manner. For a more welcome application, use the cold wraps to soothe hot, red skin after a flogging or paddling. A chilled ball-chain flogger dragged lightly over the skin would also make a nice contrast to the stationary cold front. (See Adam & Gillian's Catalog.) Conversely, the hot wraps can place safe but uncomfortable emphasis on that same tenderized skin. In addition to these play ideas, hot and cold wraps make a good addition to your first-aid kit too.

Some of the wraps are usable with liniments and creams, either heating or chilling. The keep the goop from getting all over everything — a great way to protect your leather. Look on the label to see which brands work with what liniments, or do some home testing with the cheaper wraps and your favorite tube of intensity.

In some areas, you can find equestrian care products at stores like Farm and Fleet, Big R, and Rural King or look in the phone book for stores that serve farmers or horse people.

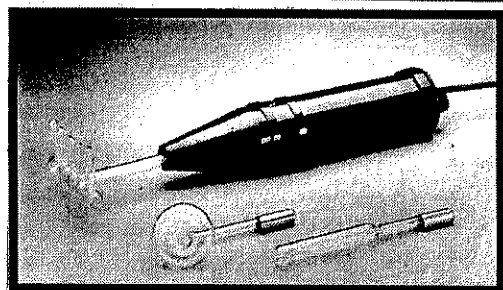
There are also catalogs for these products. For example:

Hartmeyer Saddlery, 7111 W. Bethel Ave. Muncie, IN 47304.
(317) 759-9507

Jeffers Equine Catalog, POB 948 West Plains, MO 65775
(800) JEFFERS

KV Vet Supply Co., POB 245 Rt. 1, So Highway 15&92 David City, NE 68632. (402) 367-6047.

(Sheela Ardrian is the nom de Guardian of a professional writer with a myriad of interests, including BDSM. She lives in the midwest and is the author of the popular "Waxworks" article which appeared in Issue #25.)



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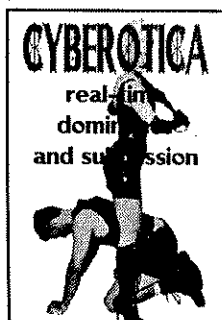
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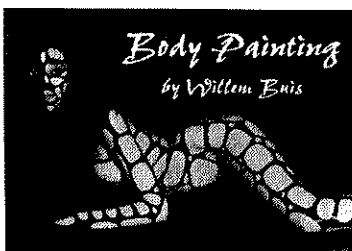
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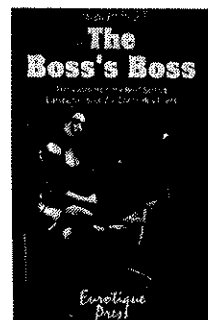
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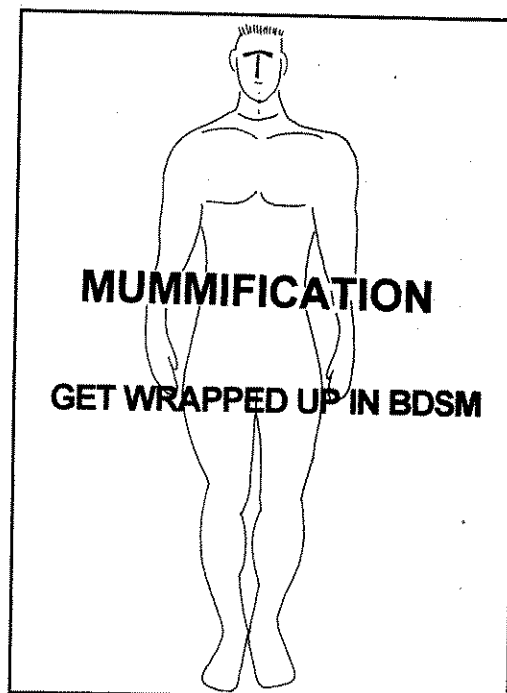
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BY ANGEL AND ALEX

Mummification can be done with numerous types of materials. (See "Wrappers" on pg 29 of this issue for ideas with elastic and other bandages.) These descriptions pertain to plastic wrap.

PLASTIC WRAP

Each type of plastic wrap has different qualities that you need to keep in mind when you plan the scene.

SaranWrap™ is strong, has almost no stretch to it and will stick to itself very easily. (If you are a novice, it may stick *too* easily and *too* often!) It can also be used for some types of suspension. For example, we have mummified a person to a St. Andrews cross. After completing the wrap, we stood the cross upright. The person was then just a foot or two above the ground. This is a good "entry-level" technique for suspension, since the person is upright and not very far from the ground.

Store Brands seem to break and tear a lot easier. This can be used to your advantage. For example, if the bottom likes to have clothes torn off, you can tear off the plastic wrap. These wraps are very good for first timers — they are

cheap, easy to use and have some stretch.

Heavy Duty/Industrial Strength can be purchased from places like Costco or Sam's Warehouse. This plastic wrap is *very* strong and can stretch. It comes in rolls of 2K feet. The roll is a little hard to juggle, but the very tight wrap can be worth it. It is so strong that it is possible to wrap the person *too* tight. This plastic should be used only after you have tried mummification a few times. It will not tear. You must cut it off.

TAPES

Duct Tape now comes in a lot of colors. Silver is the most common, but you can get it in red, blue, black and white. Never put duct tape directly on the skin without realizing the consequences. It is severe! Once the tape touches anything — you, the plastic or itself, it is stuck! It is hard to remove, but it can add color and texture to the mummification. It also makes the mummy feel more restricted.

Clear packing tape can be used when you do not want anything to "block the view" ... you can still see through the wrap. Or you may want to use it when you are doing a decorative wrap and you need more stick, but don't want to distract from the rest of the wrap.

Electrical tape is good to use for small places. Black can be used for "SaRanbo's" belt or a garter. A similar tape is used to wrap bicycle handle bars and comes in a variety of colors.

MUMMIFICATION KIT:

Plastic Wrap - 150-200' will be enough to wrap most people.

Bandage Scissors - for removal

2 Towels - one to wrap between the knees, and one to dry off the person after you remove the wrap.

Sports bottle - to give mummy water.

Cotton Balls - to prevent cutting the nipples while you are exposing them after wrapping.

Optional: Vibrator, Anal Plug,

BlindFold, Accessory colored tapes, Ear plugs or a Walkman™ for music to set the mood.

ADVANCED TECHNIQUES

Sensory Deprivation - Cut a roll of plastic wrap into thirds and you have three 3" rolls for wrapping each finger and/or toe separate from the others. By isolating each digit, you can add to the person's feeling of sensory deprivation. (This will also keep women's long nails from popping thru the plastic. You can also use the short roll for men to wrap the genitals separate from the rest of the body.

Head Wrapping - If you leave holes to breathe through, you can wrap the head in plastic. Keep in mind that it gets very hot. A better idea is to use an elastic bandage (See "Wrappers," pg 20) or a spandex hood (See Adam & Gillian's catalog).

Urination - What happens quite often is that when you get the person wrapped and have a chance to rest, you hear, "I have to go to the bathroom." Well, for men this is easy: use a Texas catheter. It looks like a condom with a tube at the end. You roll it down over the penis and put the end of the tube in a bottle or bucket. (If he is not "good," you could run the tube to his mouth.) There is nothing equivalent to the Texas catheter for women.

Sensation: Use a vibrator on the plastic, or ice, or hot wax.

Other Experiments: At a dinner party, serve the appetizers right off the chest of the mummy. (See *Guardian* #18, "Playing with Your Food").

Hang grapes on a chain hung on nipple clamps and pluck grapes while you read a good book.

Make an evening dress in color, or dress a man as royalty.

For Christmas, use red and clear for a candy cane, or green for a tree. Guess where you can hang the ornaments?

Jewish? You'll need several bottoms and lots of different colors for a wonderful living menorah!

MUMMIFICATION continued from page 24

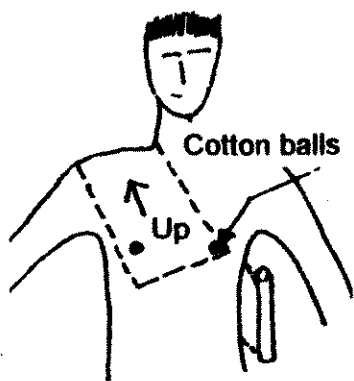


Figure 1

Now take the roll across the front of the body, then up the back and over the other shoulder (adding a cotton ball for the other nipple). (Fig 2)

That was the hard part! The rest is a breeze. Take the roll and continue around the body all the way down the torso. Be sure you overlap the plastic by 3-4 inches.

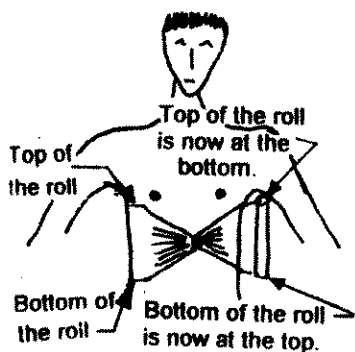


Figure 3

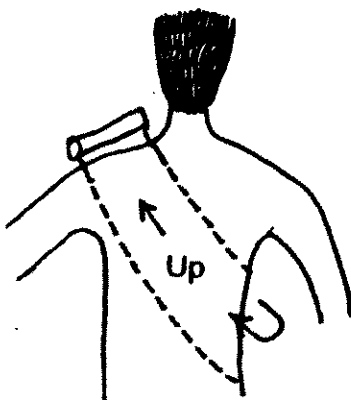


Figure 2

Next, go down one leg (but do not wrap the foot...yet). When you get to the ankle, wrap back up. Now wrap the other leg. At the bottom of the leg, you will need the towel. fold the towel to a 4" strip about 2-3' long. Hold the towel against the leg you just wrapped and use the plastic wrap to secure the towel to the leg. Wrap back up the body until you get to the arms. You may need to twist or flip the wrap. (Fig 3).

REMOVING THE PLASTIC WRAP

I prefer to rip or tear the wrap off. This works well for women. Men usually have chest hair, so it is harder to do, unless you are combining it with a hair-removal scene. So for men I use bandage scissors. When the wrap is removed, the person can get very cool. Have a cover-up handy. I have found that this scene requires a longer recovery period, as much as 30 minutes, so be patient. The body is very sensitive; so I like to use this additional recovery time to stroke the body.

Where you start all depends on who you talk to. Some say to start at the top and work down; others start with one leg and work up the body. I usually start at the shoulders because they are hard to cover. Be sure that the "wrappee" can either fall back on a "bed" or you have someone stand and steady them. Some people think to get a great wrap, you should not cut, or break the plastic wrap (the whole body should be done with one piece). I cut the plastic if I need to get a better wrap.

Try several ways and see what works best for you. I start in the center of the chest and add a cotton ball over the nipple if I would like to expose them later. Then take the roll over the shoulder and down the back until the roll is under the person's arm pit at the waist. (Fig 1)

After you wrap both arms individually, have the mummy relax the arms against the body. This time you should pull the wrap tight as this will be the last time down the body. Be sure the person feels stable. As you pull the plastic wrap tight, you can push the mummy to get a tighter fit. Continue down the body wrapping the legs together. This is enough of a wrap for a first-timer. For the brave, you can continue wrapping until you run out of plastic. (Fig 4)

Now that the mummy is wrapped, you can lay them down or have them fall on a "bed." The wrap will seem to tighten up once they lay flat.

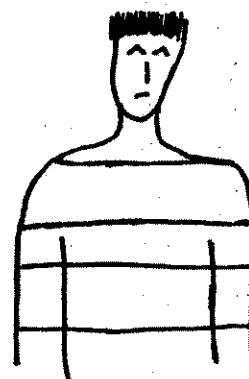


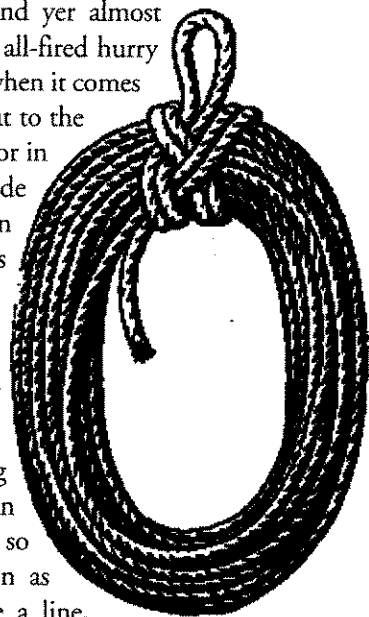
Figure 4

(Angel and Alex are inventive as ever. They want to hear other ideas for Mummification and can be reached here at The Guardian. Also see their "Corner Unit" for bondage in #24.)

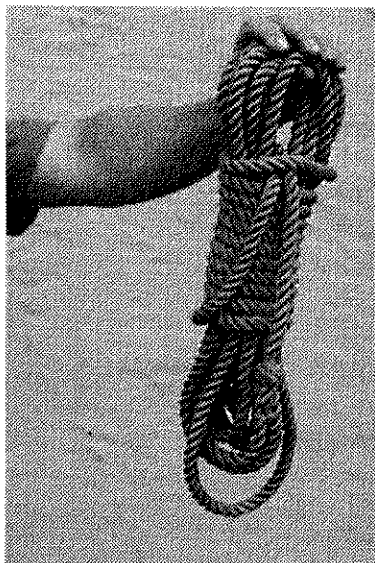
Coiling Line

with The Bo'sun

On the water yer always either makin' something fast (tying it up) or letting something run (letting it go) and yer almost always in an all-fired hurry to get it done especially when it comes time to re-attach the Boat to the Planet. If there's an anchor in the picture, the rode (anchor line) has to run free, or the anchor hangs half-way to the bottom, jest looking for something to tangle around, like a keel or a prop. If there's a sail, the halyard (sail-raising/lowering rope) better be free to run and there's nothing quite so hurtful to the reputation as goin' to throw someone a line, and have it stop in mid-air tangle.



Of course, if the wind picks up, boats have been known to get a bit "lively" in their action. When that happens, you'll want to be securing (tying up) anything that might fall down, fly up, or go overboard. Compared to a well-coiled line, a tangle of rope ain't a whole lot of use for that purpose — and it don't reflect well on a boat or her Skipper, neither. Accordingly, ye spends a fair portion of yer time overhauling (untangling) and coiling and stowing (putting away) yer lines.



On Shore, keeping your cordage shipshape is both easier, and not as easy. Lines for makin' people secure ain't so long nor as thick as the ones used to keep boats and gear from comin' adrift

(getting loose)— but you don't find all the pinrails, cleats, straps, and such ashore, that ye have fer keeping the lines tidy when yer afloat. Still, the general principle is the same. The time to straighten out a line is sometime *before* ye need to use it. Since ye never know when that will be, the time to make sure a line is ready to use, is when ye stow it.

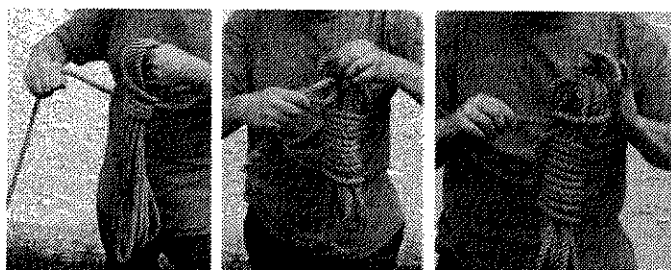
The landlubber will make his coils by winding the rope around something -- usually his arm and elbow. However he keeps that coil from comin' adrift in its locker, it's never going to uncoil neatly, because its been twisted! In fact, when taking 100 ft or more, of new rope off a spool, some careful seamen will run the rope end for end through their hand or a pulley a few times, so as to get the twist out. That's called "overhauling." Some old-timers will tow the rope behind the boat for a while. That's called asking for trouble, now that most boats have those high-speed under-water rope winders called propellers.

The point is, when you coil a line, big or small, you want to keep all the twist *out* of it so it will run free and not tangle. Because almost all three-strand rope is "right



laid," it has a clockwise "set" to it, and is therefore coiled in a clockwise direction. Braided, plaited and woven ropes don't have that much of a "set" but are wound clockwise anyway, for the sake of consistency if nothing else.

But the real secret of coiling line is to twist it about a half turn to the right for every coil you make.



The simplest example is when ye coil longish, fairly thick lines, like anchor rodes, mooring lines and the like. You hold the coil in your left hand. When you extend your left hand

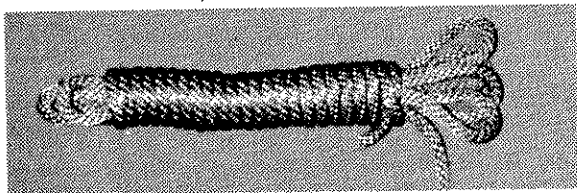
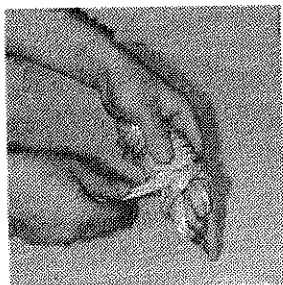
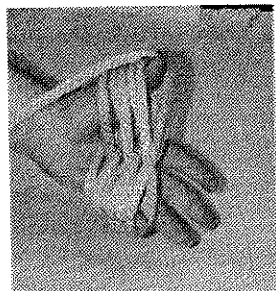
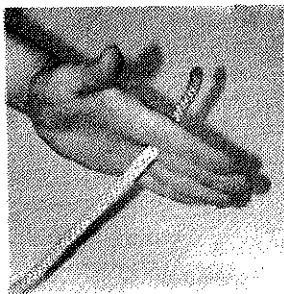
to the left, you pick up about three feet of line, which is a good length for a coil of line up to 1/2" in diameter. If you do this with your thumb down, and then rotate your wrist so the thumb comes up and the knuckles come forward, you just naturally put the required counter-twist into the line.

If you're doing it right, your loops hang straight down, and you can make them all the same length with almost no trouble at all. If you've got it wrong, the line will make figure-8's instead of open loops — and that coil will tangle.

The Sea Gasket Coil

Once you've got a set of neat coils, you've got to keep them together somehow, yet still be able to uncoil the line without a lot of fuss and bother. With this method ... and no, I ain't got no idee why they call it a "gasket coil" — you wind almost as much line around the coil as there is inside it. It's like the clothesline you get from the store, just a mite rougher ... a sight easier to undo.

First you take the free end and start winding it "down" from the hand that holds the coil to the free hanging coils. You make sure a little "tail" of the end of the line in your upper hand stays outside the windings. When you've gone as far as you're going make a bight (loop) in the working end of the line up and lead it up to your "holding" hand. Push the loop through the "eye" made by all the coils, and bring it around, outside the coils, back the way it came. Then work the line tight, bottom and top. This coil will take all kinds of knocking about, but won't tangle. To get at the line, just pull on the short free end, and the line will feed out from the center of the coil. When you reach the "bitter" end ... you'll find



a single overhand knot in your hand -- a lot easier to undo than a tangle.

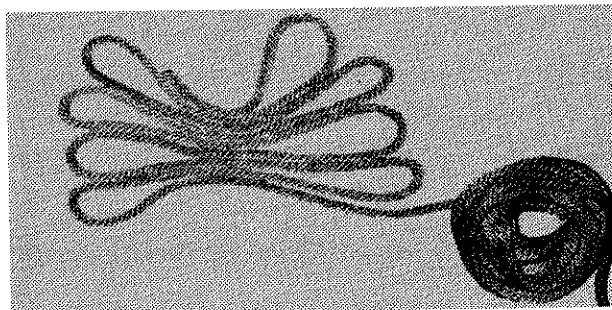
Smaller Stuff

You coil smaller line much the same as the big stuff, 'cept of course you can always skip all the yo-ho-ho marlinspike seamanship stuff about wrapping the line with itself, and just use rubber bands. 'Course, pretty soon, yer toybag fills up with once-used rubber bands and you never have a new one when you need it ... but it *will* work.

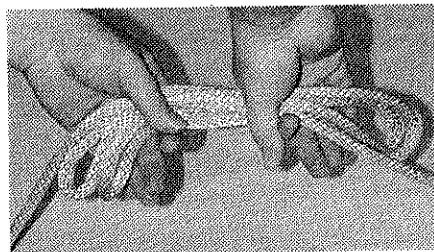
You also have more options about how you make your coils. You can make "turns" like you did with long, heavy lines ... nothing wrong with that -- and it's good practice. Or you can make figure-8s over a thumb and pinkie. This too will make a coil that takes a lot of knocking about, and will feed from the center, leaving a knot in your hand. Depending on hand-size, this method let you coil about 15 feet of 5/16" diameter line.

In this example the coils are finished off with a half-hitch around all the coils, rather than by passing a loop through them. For small stuff it works as well and is a lot easier.

The Japanese Method



The next method of coiling comes from the art of HoJo Jitsu. This is *not* a technique of overcoming an enemy with fried food and many flavors of ice cream, it is the art of tying prisoners with cord. When civil police began to take over from Samurai Warriors they had no locking metal restraints like the Europeans used. Instead, each Constable carried at least two carefully prepared silk "taske," or, "tying-up ropes," in the sleeves and sash of his kimono.



Instead of making figure 8's, the Japanese method makes parallel loops. A beginner will lay the coils out on a table and pick them up together. With

experience the coils can be gathered into the hands without

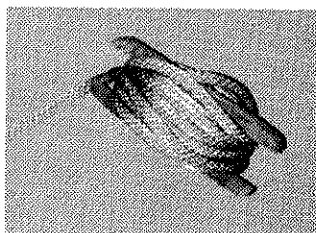
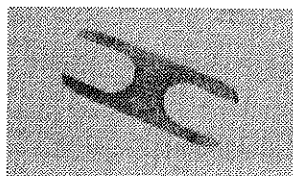
continued on page 28

Coiling Rope continued from page 27

the table. The winding and tie off are the same as with the previous example. The advantage to this method, is that it allows the coiling of longer lines, either by gathering more loops or by increasing the length of the loops.

The Bobbin Method

If this all seems like a lot of trouble just to keep some tie-lines ready for use, the "bobbin" method doesn't need prac-



tice and it always works. All ye need is some bobbins. You can sometimes find them ready-made where they sell fishing

tackle, but the fisherman's bobbins are a bit small. A 3"x 6" bobbin like this one can hold about 50' of 5/16 line.

It's probably best to make your own. You can use a hand "coping saw" or a power bandsaw to cut the shape from 3/8" plywood -- or any scrap wood you have lying around. There's no need for the outline to be perfectly symmetrical -- just so's it's about the right shape, big enough to hold the line -- and you will want to take a bit of care sanding down any roughness or splinters that might snag the line.

The best feature of the bobbin is that every bit of the line is always under control. This makes it especially good for people who weave nets, or complex rope harnesses. Maybe unwinding a bobbin don't look nearly as slick as just pulling one end out of a coil, but it looks much better than wrapping yourself up in a tangle of line ... when it was something or someone ELSE that was supposed to receive that benefit! ♦

(Long-term readers of The Guardian no doubt have already guessed the identity of The Bo'sun. But we'll never tell!)

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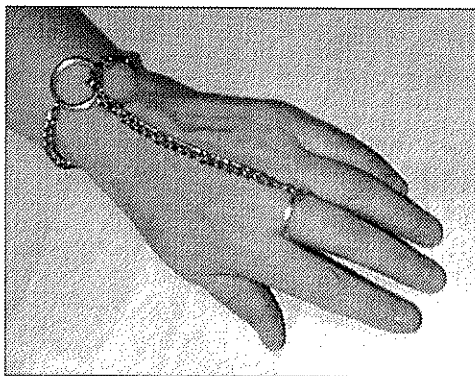
The WRIST COLLAR

Teaching an old dog collar new tricks

by Kim Boo York

The concept of collaring a submissive is pretty intrinsic to most BDSM relationships. Whether a submissive sports a permanent chain on the ankle, or occasionally dons one in heavy leather with spikes, the collar in its diversity and adaptability is a timeless accessory. Certain styles have taken on certain meanings, and what is popular with Leather Daddies looking to secure a stacked Drummer Boy would terrify weekend Gorean warriors in the suburbs. It is, generally, a matter of personal choice, (except, of course, for submissives!).

Of all types and styles, choke chain collars have remained the most versatile and the most popular accessory for many people in the scene. They are a strong symbol of power with an aura of



Choke Chain Bracelet

My favorite solution, though, is rarely practiced, despite its effectiveness and appropriateness. It certainly works on me. In this case, the choke chain is not worn as a collar, but as a **functional bracelet**.

A very small choke chain (and there are some very pretty ones out there these days), about 12" in length, is placed properly over the submissive's wrist. To keep the chain in place, the loose, "controlling" end loop is worn as a ring. This provides enough tension on the chain to prevent it from falling off the wrist, and also keeps the free end of the chain out of the submissive's way. (It is hard to serve a drink when a loose chain is falling into it.) When needed or wanted by the Dominant, the submissive so collared takes the "ring" off and attaches it to whatever leash or lead is being used.

A special plus is that I have found this particular setup very handy in places where a full neck-collar-and-lead would prove to be cumbersome to both dominant and submissive (e.g. dance clubs), or rude to the public in general (e.g. finer restaurants). In fact, when I wear mine, most people have assumed it was simply fancy, *avant-garde* jewelry. Worn as a public accessory or as daily wear, the undeniably strong statement that a choke chain projects is a nice symbol to incorporate into a BDSM relationship.

It must be pointed out that the danger of physical harm is still present: a hard enough pull could tear skin, and even do serious damage to the delicate bones that make up our wrists and hands. Use caution and common sense when using choke chains as a "wrist collar." ♦

(Kim is a new Guardian contributor.)

danger. Indeed, the very nature of a collar designed specifically to choke its subject is frighteningly attractive. In actual use, however, choke chain collars are far too dangerous for intense play, since the human neck is a very fragile structure. Injuring someone with a choke chain collar is too easy, and I strongly urge you *not* to use them as you would with an animal and seriously!

The fact remains that the idea is appealing. BDSM play is designed to toy with dangerous aspects of our psyches, and something that is used primarily for the handling and control of dogs seems, on the surface, ideally suited as a symbol of a BDSM relationship. One solution I have seen used often to circumvent the hazardous nature of choke chains is to lock them in place. The chain is worn around the submissive's neck, tightened to a loose or comfortable fit, and a small lock is secured through the chain to prevent the collar from tightening further. This practice essentially turns the chain into a normal chain collar, with the resulting limitations and relative safety to the submissive. Despite the loss of its tightening function, it still looks impressive and can serve quite well as a symbolic gesture.

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The Value of Community

Excerpted from, "Somewhere to Go, and Someone to Tell,"
by Gerrie Blum in *Some Women*, edited by Laura Antoniou.

We all need "someplace to go and someone to tell" ... and we can be honest and self-respecting, in spite of what the repressive legislatures, clergy, police and pornographers may say about us and our lifestyles. ...

In 1990, ... I was among those who helped to start a chapter of the National Leather Association (in New York City). The founding cadre wanted to take a new direction ... we needed members who could march on Pride Day; who could write letters and sign petitions if we were to be politically active, and who could be comfortable with the idea of having "real-life" contact with their fellow members. And ... officers who could be known publicly, who could put their names on the stationery and the masthead of the newsletter, who could sign documents and speak out for the organization. It may have been another of my "Utopian visions." Some members wanted the anonymity that they had been accustomed to in other organizations. Some were cheating on their spouses; some were fearful of family or co-workers "finding out" (the "What would people say?" syndrome). Many seemed to be attracted to the concept of a "secret society" and probably would have also liked a secret handshake or sign of recognition if we had one!

Looking back, I think one of the most important achievements of our administration was ... the "Social," a regularly scheduled evening at a local eatery where people could come and just hang out with others who accepted them as is. There were certain "givens" about you for just coming down the stairs to the meeting space. You did not have to explain yourself to others, nor defend your proclivities, nor hide them, either. It was all "okay." We had somewhere to go, and someone to tell! ...

In business, too, I think I am seeing some changes in ways people behave

regarding closetedness. ... There are fewer post office boxes and fewer inked-out addresses on checks. ... In fact, some are very outgoing about what they do and what they want designed form them in order to do it better or more effectively.... More often, the caller wants the opportunity to talk to someone who "understands." ... After all, how many people can come into the workplace on a Monday morning and announce to those assembled, "Gee, my (insert appropriate noun) gave me a great beating Saturday night! Wanna see my welts?" Not many ...not yet — but maybe someday! At least in my utopian vision of the future.

**Often the
best partner is
the one at hand,
if only we could
tell them!**

Part of the problem of remaining silent about one's S/M interest is not being able to find others who share your interests. One of the most frequent inquiries I get ... is, "Where can I meet people?" ... I usually try to suggest ways in which the caller can start a group. I must add, however, that many say they want a group to attend, but few are willing to make it happen. Some are not willing to do it alone, which is daunting, but don't know anyone who could help. And, frankly, having been one of those who did make it happen in New York, I can say that it can often be a case of "no good deed going unpunished." But, it also can be worth it.

There is clearly a need for local support networks where men and women can go to be "out," to be accepted and "validated" as they are; to be given "permission" to do what they are already doing

or thinking about. A place to just relax and be yourself — with no defenses and no deception. Someplace to go, and someone to tell! But for those who need secrecy and anonymity, who are afraid of being found out as someone who is interested in S/M, deep down I think they know they will never have the kind of place they say they want — and that is sad.

In groups, on the phone, and on the information highway, the major need and the big concern is partnering. In order to "do this stuff" you need someone (or several someones) to do it with much of the time. Partnership is an essential ingredient because, unlike with simple masturbation, you often need another person to do to you and for you the things you want — even as a Dominant, you can't use a pet or an inanimate object as a submissive all the time! Having a pooch come when it is called is more fun if the "pooch" is human in real life. When people have very specific needs and wants, they need a large number of contacts in order to find "the one." Being in the closet interferes with this search for companionship and relationship. Indeed it almost guarantees failure! For some, the solution is to give up or deny one's S/M needs as long as possible — or to find someone to play with in secret or to see a professional from time to time. Others continue the search as best they can. Often the best partner is the one at hand, if only we could tell them! But if people are not comfortable about what they want and need, or feel that they do not deserve it in the first place, how can they tell someone most near and dear? ...

I know that people have a variety of reasons that preclude the kind of openness I have enjoyed, both in my business and personal life. But I hope that some will reconsider the degree to which they conceal their true selves from those closest to them. It also seems to me that some of the ardor with which some defend their need to be closeted because of their "position" occurs because of an inflated sense of their own importance. It has been my observation that if we realize how seldom others think of us at all, we would be less worried about what they think of us in the first place! ♦

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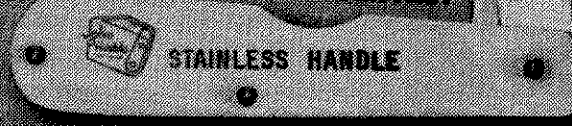
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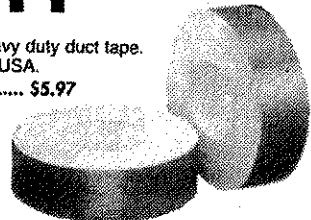
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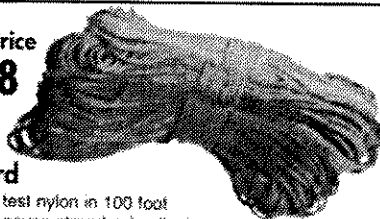
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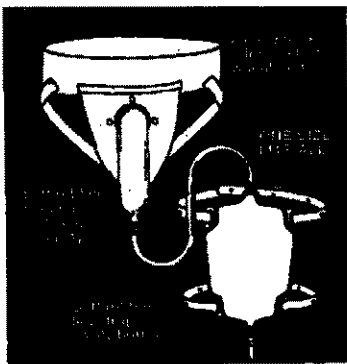
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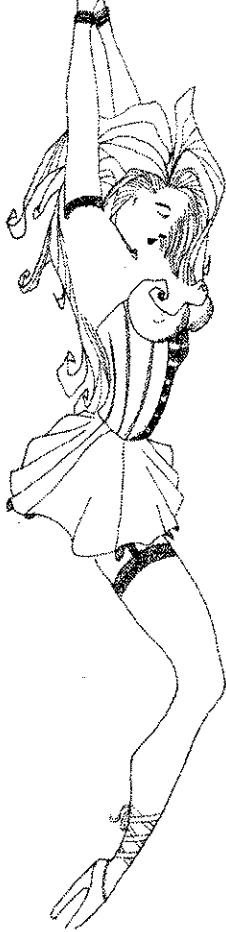
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Betcha someone could find a use for this to exercise their knobs!

Horizontal Flogging

The down-side of being strung up

by Sir Adam



There's an undeniable romantic appeal to the idea of stringing someone up by the wrists and coming at them from all directions with the whip or flogger of choice. And up to a point it's not *un-sane* or *not-safe* to do. It's a delightful position for a controlled, sensual flogging. It makes the body look good, uplifting parts that sag, projecting parts that are supposed to stick out, and displaying muscle form and definition to their best advantage. The upraised arm protects the face and neck while preventing painful "wraps" to the collarbone.

But the very vulnerability that makes this position so charming and erotic requires a certain *un-spontaneous* concentration on the part of the Top, and muscular effort on the part of the bottom. Being stretched or partially suspended makes the bottom's soft internal organs more susceptible to blunt trauma injury ... and there are circulation issues simply from holding the hands and arms above heart-level for a long period of time — the major concern is for the possibility of sprains and dislocations. The bottom's ability to keep the body "in column" is seriously compromised, so a loss of balance in almost any direction can take a joint beyond its safe range. This is not an issue for "heavy" or "edge" players only. Powerful blows with a big mushy "cush-flogger" are generally more sensual than punishing, but their impact can move the body far, fast, and forcefully. Falling off one's high-heeled shoes while bound overhead can do terrible things to a gentleman's arm and shoulder joints.

Other Options

Historical illustrations of punishment flogging in military, naval and prison situations almost never show the "strung up" position when the victim was expected to survive and return to normal activity in a reasonable amount of time. In stand-

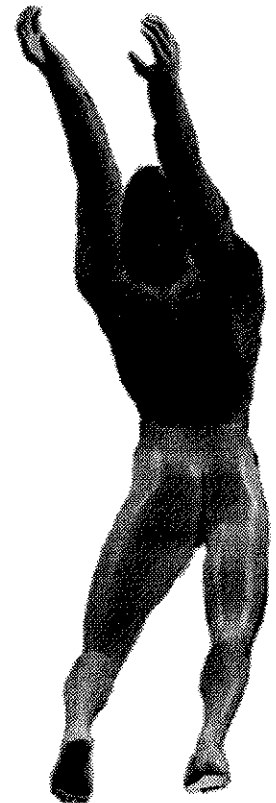
ing positions the arms are secured in a relaxed, partially flexed position roughly at heart-level and the front of the body is supported by a post, grating, wall, or some other device. Starting in the Mid-17th century, Dutch jails used a whipping post with a copper trough that was bent and fastened to protect the front of the body from "wraps" while holding the punishee as immobile as possible. In this arrangement the arms were fastened at the sides and bore their share of stripes along with the back and/or buttocks.

English prisons made about equal use of flogging frames and boxes that supported the front to the body and flogging tables that bent the prisoner over at waist. In addition to holding the victim securely this allowed the prison whip-functionary to strike **DOWNWARD**, increasing both the force and accuracy of the blows. In the United States, elaborate flogging furniture was uncommon. Simple posts and gratings were most often used, but frequently the prisoner was simply tied or held flat on the ground.

Why lie down?

There are lessons to be learned from this, in service of erotic and consensual flogging experiences. When the bottom is horizontal, concerns of balance and joint displacement disappear. The far side of the body (front or back) is protected from wraps, and the heart can supply the brain and the extremities with ample blood pressure with far less effort than in a standing position. This frees both the Top and the bottom to get as intense as they wish, concentrating on the experience rather than the technicalities. This is as valuable in a light or caressive flogging as it is to a powerful, intense one. Free from the strain and anxieties of the standing position, some people will find that the horizontal posture raises the pain threshold and increases endurance as well.

There's nothing like a few burly assistants to hold someone flat on the ground. But for the underprivileged majority who cannot call on live-in staff, some furniture, fixtures, and a little pre-planning are called for. Even if restraint, *per se*, is



Horizontal Flogging

continued from page 34

not a requirement, there needs to be some cushioning where hard parts of the body ... such as knees and foreheads ... touch the ground.

Making the "torture table" comfortable

Strategically placed couch cushions or bed-pillows do a better job than a single flat futon or exercise mat, because they can be arranged to support the body's contours, making breathing easier. This can be a matter of some importance if the bottom tends toward abdominal rotundity. If the belly is free to expand, the diaphragm can inflate the lungs even if there is pressure on the chest. But if the chest is free and there is pressure on the diaphragm, breathing is impeded. A corpulent bottom will

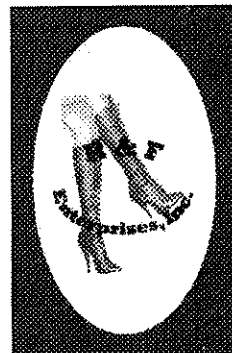
need elevation under the hips and chest, an extremely slender one may benefit from a thin pad under the abdomen, to support the lower spine.

The face and forehead can be cushioned by the outstretched arms alone, if the dust questions ... how much? ... what kind? .. does it matter? — have been addressed. Sneezing fits (or asthma attacks) add nothing to the romance of the moment. While a tile or linoleum floor can be mopped, carpet and parquet floors usually need some kind of covering.

Some floggers may find the change in position takes a little time to adjust to. But practice, and perhaps a slightly longer flogger will quickly solve the problem — and the resulting "Thank You" moans are well worth it. ♦

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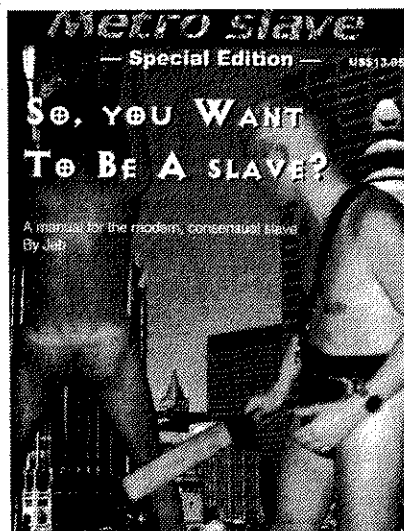
BOOK REVIEW

by Mitch Kessler

This "book" is actually a special edition of *Metro-Slave*.

So, you want to be a slave?

A manual for the modern, consensual slave



By "Jeb"

Selective Publishing,
POB 4597 Oak Brook,
IL 60522.

(630) 323-3190

J. Birch, Publisher,
David Miley, Editor.

\$13.95

48 pages illus.

"Jeb" has never been one to follow fashion or to kowtow to the Political Correct'm'tude of others. However, everything about this magazine-style guide to consensual slavery, from its format to its price to its content, will no doubt set busy tongues to wagging once again.

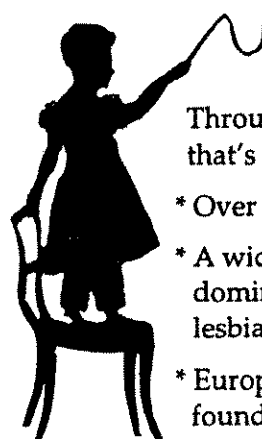
His view of Service and Submission, at least in its ideal form, is unflinchingly Old Fashioned ... one might even say "Old Guard." Equality and Sharing are not part of the program. Intensity and commitment are. His advice on "Finding a Master" for example, is brutally honest: it includes the inconvenient truths that not everyone is young, single and beautiful, while championing the idea that a would-be slave must have an extraordinary degree of courage, strength and resilience to succeed in his chosen life's-path. He even mentions that some Masters and slaves who are looking for each other are 1) Married and/or 2) deeply In The Closet — and doesn't even condemn them for it. Nor does he advance Safety and Sobriety as the first virtues they should be looking for in each other.

In addition to Master-Finding, Jeb includes thoughts on self-assessment, attitude, chastity, punishment and service. There are no less than three eye-opening slave Contracts that will leave no doubt where Jeb is coming from on this subject.

If you are interested in a no-holds-barred view of erotic servitude in the real world ... or are interested in the thinking of someone who believes in it — this is the book for you. ♦

Following is "The slave in Context," excerpted from a contract in the manual, with permission from Jeb, for which we thank him. In addition, Issue #22 of *The Guardian* contains another sample contract for your consideration, reprinted from *Metro-slave* magazine. Contact him by email to: jeb@metroslave.com, or visit the web site at www.metroslave.com.

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The slave In Context

Excerpted from *So You Want to be a slave ?*
with permission

By Jeb

Public Conduct Orders

An addition to "slave's General Orders and Contract"... the following orders apply to public conduct of slave, should slave choose to accompany Master, and Master choose to have slave accompany Him in a public place (and) are understood to be in addition to all orders contained in the Contract. slave shall behave in a manner consistent with the rules set forth in the three "conduct modes" outlined below. Master indicates which mode slave shall act within by stating the name of the mode. ... Master may additionally institute a set of silent signals to notify slave of the proper conduct mode.

The mode may change depending on circumstances, and slave must always be conscious of Master's wishes, and aware that his behavior will reflect more upon Master than upon himself. Strict adherence to the following rules is therefore extremely important and Punishment for violation will be severe.

1. **PRIVATE:** In *private mode*, slave is bound solely by the rules set forth in the basic Contract... This mode will normally (although not always) be in effect when Master and slave are in the Master's space or in the space of a knowledgeable and/or sympathetic person or persons.

2. **FRIENDLY:** *Friendly mode* will usually be effect in such public places as leather bar where the dress, demeanor or appearance of Master and slave and the nature of their relationship will be understood for what they are and held sympathetically (or, at least, not antagonistically) by casual onlookers. slave should understand that he is "on display" as Master's property in such situations. The following apply to slave's conduct and demeanor while in *Friendly mode*:

a. **Stationary Position:** slave should remain at Master's side at all times unless specifically instructed otherwise. While Master and slave are standing in one place, slave shall maintain a physical position to the right of and one-half step behind Master

b. **Moving Position:** If Master begins to move from one place to another, slave shall position himself to the right of and slightly behind Master and move at the same speed as Master. slave



shall remain within the range of Master's peripheral vision at all times. Under no circumstances shall slave be in front of Master

c. **Elevation:** slave's eye level shall be below that of Master at all times. Should Master move so that his eye level is below that of slave, he shall immediately move so as to correct this imbalance.

d. **Interactions With Others.** slave shall speak to no one at any time unless first spoken to. ... slave's sole response to conversational attempts by others shall be confined to the statement, "i am sorry, but i am not free to talk. Please speak to my Master," and to indicate who Master is with appropriate body language. In addition, slave shall have no physical contact with other persons unless such contact is unavoidable. slave shall treat all persons with deference and respect, regardless of their demeanor or appearance.

The one exception to this rule shall apply in the case of persons who, in the slave's judgment, behave in such a manner as to indicate that they do not respect the relationship between Master and slave (e.g.: drunks). In such situations, slave is authorized to take whatever actions slave deems necessary to terminate contact with such persons. Master is free in His judgment, to override slave's decision in such matters and to punish slave for misbehavior. However, Master will not tolerate anyone "mashing" or otherwise molesting slave and will step to slave's defense if need be. Master may, at His discretion, grant slave "free time". During "free time", slave is free to leave Master's immediate presence, and/or to interact normally with Master and with Master's and slave's acquaintances, including casual physical contact. slave shall make frequent eye contact with Master and be prepared to rejoin Master immediately if Master directs.

3. **PUBLIC:** Public mode will generally apply in contexts where Master/slave relationships may not be accepted or understood by those present. The following rules are therefore intended more to ensure the physical and social safety of Master and slave, rather than to further the relationship between them.

a. **General Demeanor:** Slave shall conduct himself at all times in such a manner as to not call attention to Master and slave.

c. **Movement and Position.** The movement and position rules set forth in friendly mode also apply to public mode, with the provision that slave shall not make his adherence to said rules obvious: casual and relatively loose (but definite!), rather than quick and snappy.

d. **Interactions With Others:** slave shall speak only when spoken to by others and shall converse with others only with Master's permission. If slave is approached by a member of the straight public, slave shall behave in a strictly formal and "correct" manner and limit his speech to those words and phrases absolutely necessary to communicate in a non-offensive manner, and he will refer any questions regarding the nature of the relationship between Master and slave to Master, calling Master by his name rather than referring to him as "Master" (slave may expect that Master will intervene quickly should such a situation arise). ♦

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Excerpted from So You Want to be a slave ?

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My First Experience - and Failure - as a Submissive

by JBL

It's no wonder that I'm writing this story of failure from my home and not a success story from my Master's home. We didn't have a prayer to succeed, but I'm not discouraged. In fact, show me a kind, caring, no-nonsense dominant and I'd drop to my knees right now!

Where to begin? hmmm ... Well, I always knew I wanted to be spanked and controlled by a man; have fantasized about it since I was five years old. I came from a family who followed the tenets of Dr. Spock to a "t" and I was never even smacked, but I connected punishment with caring and spent my life feeling uncared for.

I married at 19, had a roller-coaster marriage for 28 years to a man who was strong and controlling, but no dominant. Raised three great kids and when the last child went off to college, envisioned a serene rest-of-my-life.

But then I found the Internet! Newsgroups, chat rooms and folks all over the world who had the same desires and fantasies as I harbored in my soul; fantasies of not only spanking for punishment and eroticism, but bondage, whippings, anal sex, "consensual rape," being out of control and totally dominated.

Not only did I discover this online. I went a step further and found a few local dominants to play with. I wasn't discreet. I decided I loved this kinky part of myself and I told everyone — family, friends, children and perhaps most stupidly of all, my husband!

My husband stole my computer, gave me a choice: give up my sick, dis-

gusting behavior, or get out! For months I sat in nowhere's land. I couldn't go back, couldn't go forward, couldn't leave and couldn't stay. I got depressed and angry. Our home life was hostile one moment and forgiving and placating the next. I was going nuts, my husband was going nuts and our kids were miserable and upset.

After the worst Thanksgiving and my 48th birthday, I flew to California to visit my dying father. Then my hus-

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within each hour:
happy, sad, angry,
guilty, teasing.**

band told me not to come home. He would hurt me bad! I was causing him too much pain. So I stayed on in the west and was introduced to Master "L" by a friend of mine, another of his collared submissives.

To tell the truth, I knew nothing of the BDSM scene. I had been to one BDSM club, one spanking party and played with a few tops. But after meeting Master L and falling madly in lust and love with him, I felt I wanted to be with him and serve this man forever. The first time he grabbed and held my hair, the first stroke of his cane, the first time he

hurt me so bad I didn't think I could bear it, I just wanted to take even more pain just to please him. I was hooked! After spending a few days with him and his submissive wife, "B," I was invited to move into their new home. I truly don't think I have ever been happier or more scared than I was when driving from Los Angeles to my new home with my new Master.

But I was off the wall, not sleeping well in a strange bed in a strange house in a strange town. We were all sick for weeks with colds and coughs that wore us down and we were trying to get a new house in order. I went through a myriad of emotions within each hour: happy, sad, angry, guilty, teasing. I'd get mad and pout, not talk, or I'd be crying. My family drove me nuts and I wanted to be punished all the time; for Master to keep proving how cared for I was. I couldn't give up control for whatever reason. He did punish me. I wore him out punishing me! I didn't behave well, pleased myself as often as I pleased my Master.

A few times, I asked Master to just do what he needed to do to me to get me under his control and he would threaten to chain me in my closet. Even put in the anchor bolts. I loved the idea secretly, but out loud I poo-pooed the idea and laughed at such a silly thing.

My life was hectic. I was back and forth to LA to visit my sick dad, see friends. I had a million plans and Master gave me enough rope to hang myself. I thought he'd rescue me, but he didn't.

The reason he didn't was a 27 year old submissive, "D," who Master collared a month after I moved in. I was then informed that she was also moving in with us! I was jealous and anxious. Our house was small and we'd have to move yet again. I was just getting comfortable. Master had eyes for no other when D was around and I envied her his attention. I just needed more time to feel secure in my place and I would have helped Master realize his dream, but the

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continued

Failure

timing was wrong and he wanted his dream girl now and I was helpless to help him. I made it worse — behaved rudely and was bitchy.

I was failing and couldn't help myself and Master let me fail! He didn't help me, although he could have, I think. I guess I just wore him out.

While I was in LA visiting my Dad and children who were in from the east,

**I have
told my shrink that
I don't want
to be cured of
my masochism,
... I just want
to love myself more.**

Master called me and said he'd packed up all my things and *I could not come home!* A million, trillion times Master had said that I could *always* come home, no matter how bad I was, no matter if I was scared because I had behaved so badly, I could *always*, but *always*, come home. In fact, he said, he'd come drag my sorry ass home if it was too scared to go home and then he'd make it a lot sorrier. I believed him. He told me there were people who loved me at home and they were my family and you can always go home to family.

There are no words to describe what I felt. I was hysterical, devastated, destroyed, sick, suicidal. I could not stop crying. I begged and pleaded and Master wouldn't relent. I fell apart. Totally and completely, in front of my children, my dying father, my mother, my sisters — everyone. I couldn't control myself or help it.

continued from page 40

There was no place left for me on this earth, and I wanted to die. My family watched over me that I didn't commit suicide, and my daughter held my hand and took me on the plane back to my house. My husband has been caring for me since. Not always well. He does enjoy his gloating moments of reminding me that I am so awful a person that even my big strong Master threw me out. But I'm home, among familiar things now, trying to pick up the pieces. I see a psychiatrist but have refused medication. I'm a masochist, you know. I want to feel my pain. Actually, I have told my shrink that I don't want to be cured of my masochism, submissive nature or my kinky sexual orientation. I just want to love myself more.

The tears come only six or seven times a day now after two weeks home and I am getting closure on my marriage and the virtual end to my former life at home. There's not much left for me here, a few friends, but I feel like Rip Van Winkle. Life as moved on here without me. My husband has a girlfriend that pleases him, my children are away and building their own wonderful and hopefully happy lives and I'm a fish out of water, seeking "home."

The rarest moments in my life, when I found like I had found home, were kneeling at Master L's feet. It just felt fine there and seemed to be the place I had sought my whole life. Whether Master L just views my being sent away as the ultimate punishment he could do to me, or whether he just hates me, I haven't a clue. We do not communicate. I think of him every second of every day and dream of him at night, but I hope that it will diminish in time and I can move on, to where I need to be.

I loved serving, although I did it badly. I pray to do better next time. There must be a Master out there with

the strength to teach a novice but willing submissive how to serve well. I hope I am lucky enough to find him some day. I won't give up hope.

In the meantime, I'm left with Master L's initials tattooed on my tush, a big empty hole in my heart and soul and a tremendous fear that the nature of submissive beasts is to make themselves vulnerable. It scares me still. Scares me a lot that I can end up here again some day. But, as Popeye says, "I yam what I yam." I am a masochist, kinky and submissive and I like it that way. ♦

(JBL wrote this piece as a kind of catharsis, after a bad affair which lasted three months. She has since continued to heal and has moved on. She can be reached through The Guardian.)

FED UP WITH YEARS OF
SHAME AND SECRECY,
PEGGY ADOPTS THE
AGGRESSIVE, "IN-YOUR-
FACE" TACTICS OF
OTHER ALTERNATIVE-
LIFESTYLE GROUPS.



Update on The Houghtons

by Mitch Kessler, Ed.



On May 14, 1997, Houghton Family Supporters were surprised to read an internet posting from sources close to The Community which said,

"Detective B....." appears to be saying, on record, that officially there is no indication that consensual BDSM practice had *anything* to do with the charges filed ..."

The posting was based on a written report circulated at the Portland Police Department's Sexual Minorities Roundtable. In making his report Detective Sgt. B. of the Portland Police Department's Hate Crimes Unit acknowledged that he had *not* made direct contact with the Houghtons, their lawyers or fundraisers, but had relied on a telephone conversation with the arresting officer.

Mary Dante, Houghton Family Fundraiser, first learned of the posting and of its upcoming presentation to BDSM Community organizations including the National Leather Association, from Mitch Kessler, *SandMUtopian Guardian* editor. Ms. Dante immediately issued a statement categorizing the report's contents as malicious fabrication, addressing each of the report's assertions. The Lieutenant, she said, "lies through his moustache."

Challenged to provide documentation by Portland NLA representative, Ms C., Robert Dante, publisher of *Boudoir Noir* magazine replied that disclosing Court records and documents at this stage in the legal proceedings would further inflame an already hostile Family Court Judge, resulting in

possible further harm to the Houghtons and their children. He said that the time to present documents was only after "the children are back with their parents permanently ..."

Further addressing the Portland Report, Mr. Dante said that the Family Court Judge had been unaware of Houghton Fundraising activities until advised of them, as a result of Sgt. B.'s involvement. Upon learning of a Houghton Defense Fund, the Family Court Judge, "castigated" Mrs. Houghton from The Bench and attempted to have the children returned to foster care.

Asked for comment, Ms.C admitted an inability to decide who should be believed, but said she did not want to retract or modify the internet posting, nor disassociate the BDSM Community from the written report. "My first concern," she said ... (is), "that Mary and Robert (Dante) and their colleagues understand that Sgt. B. here in Portland is not taking sides or making accusations. He only passed on to us what he was told by The Lieutenant."

"We the Portland BDSM community have a model relationship with our police department," she concluded, "and it must not be compromised by misunderstandings or irresponsible statements."

She also said that she would not present the Report or its contents to NLA: Portland or NLA: International, at this time.

The Houghton children have been provisionally reunited with their parents under an Appeals Court temporary finding, which can reversed by a final decision of the Family Court. Mr. Houghton accepted a plea bargain on a charge of "Child Endangerment" and is currently on a one year probation, which can be revoked at the discretion of the Court. ♦

*For more information about the Houghtons or to make a contribution contact: Boudoir Noir,
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Play Party

Standard rules that will prevent later problems include:

Don't touch other people's slaves.

Don't touch other people's toys.

Don't intrude on other people's scenes.

Problems with the Law

While not talked about much, some parties have had legal trouble. You should be prepared in case the police or other law enforcement officials choose to pay you a visit. More importantly, try

**Many parties
require people
to sign waivers
absolving the host
of liability...**

to work to minimize the possibility. The best way to do this is to avoid any activities that are red flags to law enforcement.

Be careful about accepting money at the door. If you charge for your party, have people pay by mail in advance. You don't want any cash changing hands at the party as police will assume it is purchasing sexual services. In many localities, accepting money at the door is proof that you are *not* a private party and that you *must* admit *anyone* who arrives with cash in hand.

Local laws vary a lot, but if you've charged people to attend your event *and* you provide alcoholic beverages, you usually should have a liquor license. It is best not to have alcohol at all, or have people bring their own. Some of your guests will object to its presence anyway, arguing that it is "unsafe" (people who imbibe shouldn't engage in BDSM activities). If you allow it, you will also have to deal with the possibility of evicting people who have had too much, which may in turn attract police attention — either directly or due to complaints from neighbors.

The minimum age of your guests is

continued from page 13

also worth considering. Obviously minors shouldn't be allowed, but are minors under 18 or under 21? Local customs vary. Many play it safe and insist on 21. (We've never been happy with this. We were interested in joining the BDSM community before we were 21 and got a very cold shoulder!) If you *do* invite people under 21, then *definitely* ban alcohol, unless you intend to wave red flags at the forces of law and order.

Relatively few private parties in homes have been raided. This is more a problem for public places that charge an entrance fee. In most cities, these establishments are regularly visited by members of the vice squad and have arranged some kind of *modus vivendi* with them. There are a few things you should do just in case the police pay you a visit:

Have your lawyer's phone number handy. Have some cash set aside for bail and held by someone *not* going to the party. Even if you have cash, you can't bail yourself out of jail. Keep everyone calm should the police enter your party. (They are unlikely to enter the way they do in movies, smashing through doors and windows and waving guns.) They will enter through the front door, show you their badges and then snoop around looking for violations of law. If everyone remains calm, they will probably just leave. Stall the cops at the door and send party staff to warn guests of the unwanted presence of the police and caution them to remain calm. (See #23 of *The Guardian* for more on dealing with the police.)

Many parties require people to sign waivers absolving the host of liability for any injury at the party. It is actually questionable how much help this would be in court, but it probably discourages people from initiating law suits. To waive or not to waive is up to you but having everyone

ACCESSIBILITY

Accessibility is an increasingly hot topic in the BDSM community, just as in the mainstream. While it is unlikely that anyone will sue you for *not* having complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act in setting up your play space, you should still make some effort. How much depends on your guest list and whether guests bring guests.

A few things to consider are: Are the aisles wide enough to accommodate a wheelchair? Are there steps, and if so is there alternate access for them? (It's not hard to cobble together ramps with plywood and 2 x 4s.) If only part of the site is accessible (i.e. the second floor is reached by steep stairs), put some of the fun equipment downstairs too. There's nothing more frustrating than being stuck at the refreshment table while everyone else runs upstairs to play!

Wheelchairs are, of course, just one of the things you should consider. Some of your guests may arrive on crutches. Others may have difficulty seeing or hearing. If you don't know sign language, you might want to invite someone who does, in case you find yourself in need of an interpreter.

Many people have allergies, asthma, or other difficulties. Smoking should be limited to a few areas, or prohibited entirely — and try to have some ventilation! Many play parties close all the windows for fear of disturbing the neighbors with the screams, but that can quickly create a rather fetid atmosphere. C&SV

read and sign a waiver can assure that everyone has read the party rules.

Debriefing

Assuming you want to have another party, ask at least some of your guests what they thought of it, what they liked, and what they didn't like. They'll probably have some ideas for future events, and may be willing to help implement them. This is the best time to rope people into helping you arrange the next party. Have fun! ♦

(Carolyn & Steve have been together since high school and have been involved in the scene in several cities. They write for The Guardian regularly and welcome readers' comments.)

The SandMUTopian Guardian #26

Enema Games

continued from page 7

longed retainment) I quickly dove in!

(While the traditional image of Tops always giving enemas and bottoms always receiving them could be effectively challenged by those with a more hedonistic view of enemas, it is my Top's view and it does serve our D/s style quite nicely. She has made it very clear that there will never be any water flowing in her direction. We always enjoy highlighting the disparity of our roles with some after-activity that draws specific attention to the defining issue at hand. Having me kiss her cool, pale-perfect bottom cheeks right after she has finished scorching mine is one good example. Tonguing her relaxed, virgin pucker while simultaneously clenching my own recently-invaded

floodgate is another.)

Nevertheless, my Top was counting on quantity and gravity to keep my dalliance in her hindquarters short and sweet — which ordinarily would have been a safe bet. But miraculously, the allure of her Forbidden Zone endowed me with the sphincter of Hercules(!) and I got to play much longer than either of us anticipated. So long in fact, that soon we were both laughing at the improbable twist of circumstances. Although I was the one with the full belly, this was one time my Top got slightly more than she bargained for!

(Pierre and his Top have an active and creative BDSM lifestyle, which they share with Guardian readers from time to time. He is also a talented cartoonist.)

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Meanwhile, North of the Border ...



CUSTOMS BANS LEGAL CANADIAN-PRODUCED VIDEO

(Toronto) Revenue Canada Customs has banned the instructional SM video, "Bullwhip: Art of the Single-Tail Whip," from entry into Canada — even though the video was produced in Toronto and has been approved by the Ontario Film Board.

The video was produced in 1996 by *Boudoir Noir Magazine* and approved by the Ontario Film Board as an adult video. Portions of the video aired on Canadian TV a few months ago.

Boudoir Noir accidentally sent two copies of the video to a US customer who mailed the extra copy back to Canada. When it reached the US/Canada border, Customs detained it!

Customs is giving the magazine three-options: allow it to forfeit the video, have it returned to the U.S., or lodge an official appeal of Customs' determination. The Customs official

told publisher and film-maker, Robert Dante, "If an item contains bondage or sadomasochism, *even if it's consensual*, it is *usually* prohibited by Customs." The unnamed official cited Form D9-1-1 as justification for the prohibition.

Dante had been speaking with officials at the Prohibited Importations Unit of the Customs Assessment Division in Toronto.

The video teaches viewers how to responsibly crack a whip, giving tips on safety and technique and demonstrating in three consensual SM scenes how to play at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels of whip proficiency. The video contains semi-nudity and consensual SM.

Dante has presented workshops on safe bullwhip use in Canada and the US and given lessons to dominatrices, stuntpeople and professional actors in Toronto. His bullwhip SM play was featured on HBO's "Real Sex" #13.



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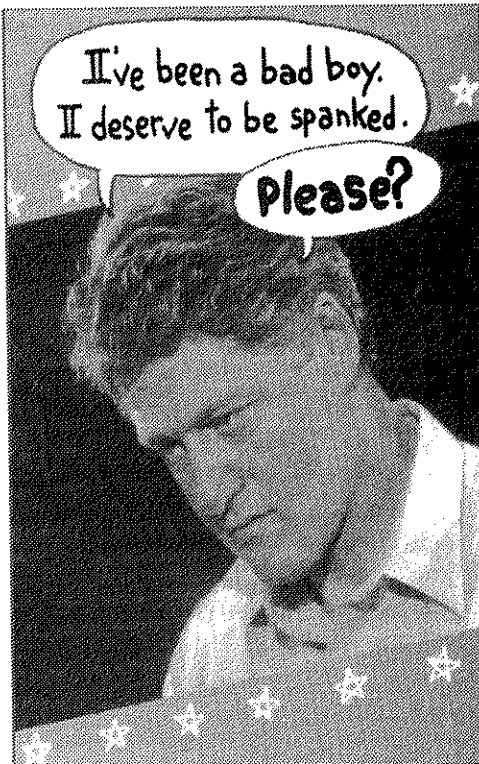
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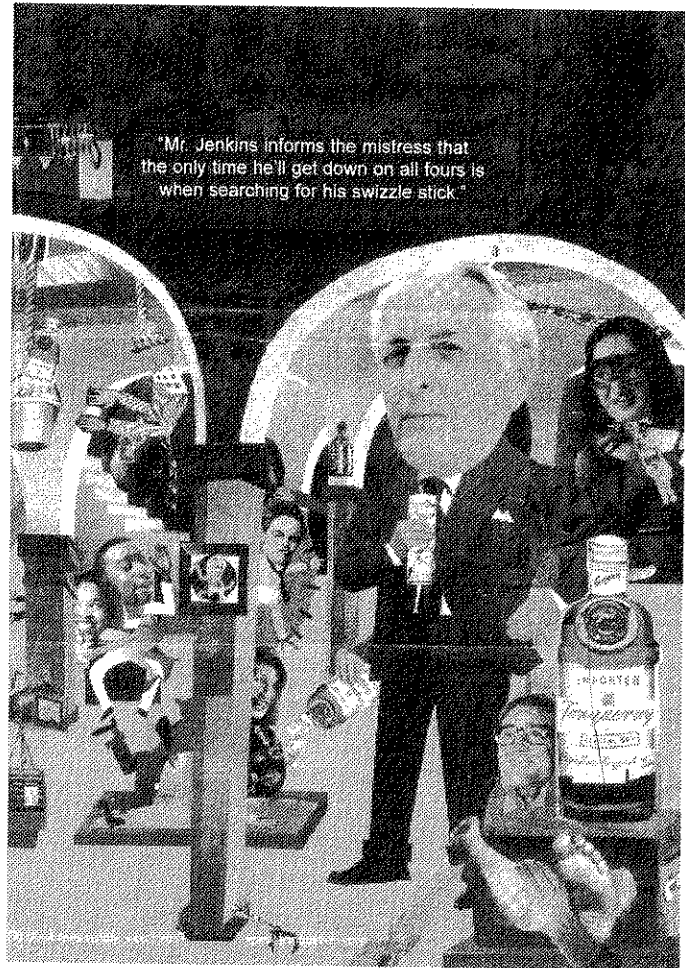
LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM STRIKES OUT

(Lillian, Alabama) A Little League baseball team was disbanded because the manager (also a father of a team member and youth pastor at the evangelical Alliance Church) did not want the boys being sponsored by a video store which *included* X-rated movies. He objected to the name "C&J Video" being written on the jerseys! C&J is the only video store in town and owner David Bryan also has a son on the team. He has been their sponsor for 4 years.

The dispute began when the parents of four players filed a civil rights lawsuit defending their, "sincerely held religious beliefs." They said those rights included refusing to let their sons wear jerseys identifying C&J Video. The Lillian Sports Association refused to allow the four players to wear jerseys without any sponsor name. League rules say all team members must wear identical uniforms.

As publicity grew, boys whose parents did not object to the sponsorship, stopped coming to games. They soon lacked enough players to field a team.

At a court hearing in May of 1997, the team was disbanded and the players set to the league's five other teams.



CREDITS

This truck-side shot was taken by Ralph of RCDC. He wonders who they were able to hire.

The Ad was sent to us by (lucky) Pierre. A variation on a familiar theme.

The Clinton birthday card was found in a Florida card shop by our intrepid Publisher when visiting her family.

Eagle-eyed Editor, Mitch Kessler, found the Little League article, and Robert Dante sent us the Canadian article because it is *his* tape that is languishing at the border.

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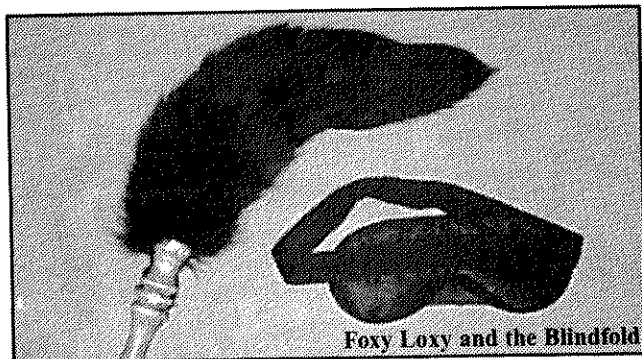
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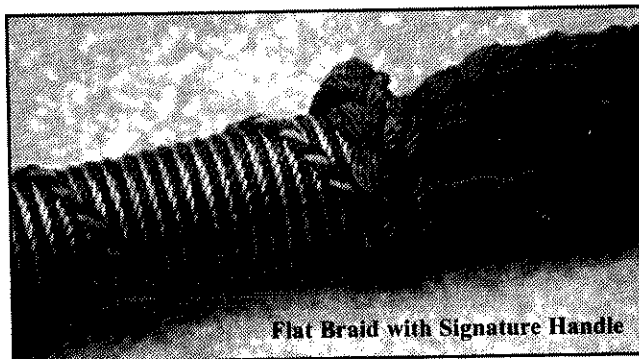
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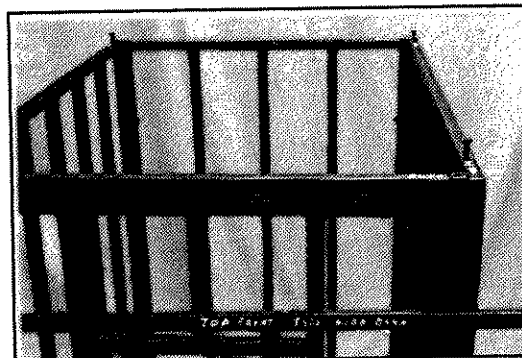
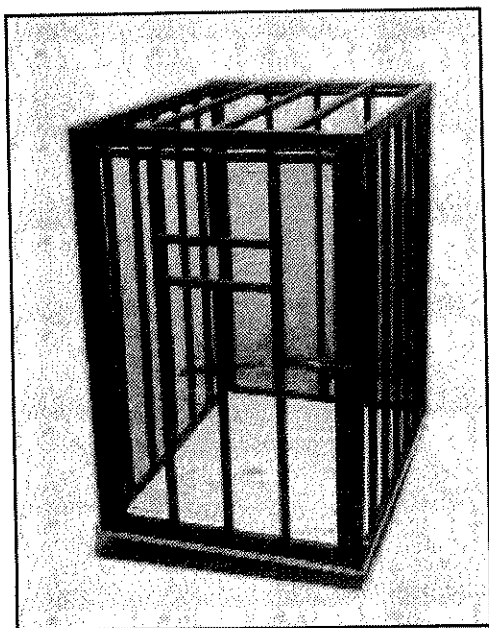
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From Gillian's E-Mail:

As makers of BDSM toys for more than 10 years, Adam and I have heard lots of things from our customers. And, every once in a while, we offer advice, sometimes even without being asked.

One day this spring, this email arrived from a regular customer:

"The last item I requested, paid for, and you sent, is still sitting in my closet, unopened, and unlikely to be so. Life is that way, and circumstances change. I'm going to return the box and its contents.

Since it has never been used, perhaps you can sell it again. If not, thanks anyway.

Fearing the worst, I replied:

"Your message sounds rather ominous. I hope you are all right and that the 'change in circumstances' is not a serious or life-threatening situation. (Or did you meet someone that is not interested in 'this stuff'? In which case, I suggest you pack away — and not throw away — your other toys. You can never tell what the future may bring.) ...

When he wrote again:

... I have found someone of whom I'm inordinately fond, and she gives no indication of wanting to participate in my activities. There's enough else to do that I don't really care if she isn't interested. Perhaps another time, another life. Otherwise I'm alive and well.

I took the opportunity to say:

"One last thing ... even though it is none of my business ... and you can tell me so. ...

Keep this thought in the back of your head ... when someone denies a basic part of his/her personality and sexual makeup because of another, it does not last indefinitely.

When the first rush of romanticism starts to fade, and we begin to see the person and the situation in more realistic terms, we tend to be less willing to

give up something we care about for his/her sake. (Over the years I have seen it happen all too often.) 'Nuff said. :-)'..."

We did hear from him once again:

"Thanks for the information and the help. And, thanks to 'G' several weeks ago for urging me to not hide away my interests. The person I thought might be offended turned out to be very interested. We're now trying to decide what type relationship we'll have. Best wishes!..."

Of course I immediately responded:

"I am so pleased to hear that! Thanks so much for letting me know. Whenever I butt into other people's business, I have some qualms, (but it seldom deters me) :-) and it's nice to know that in your case at least, it was not an unwise decision on my part. (Besides, I would rather 'say it' than

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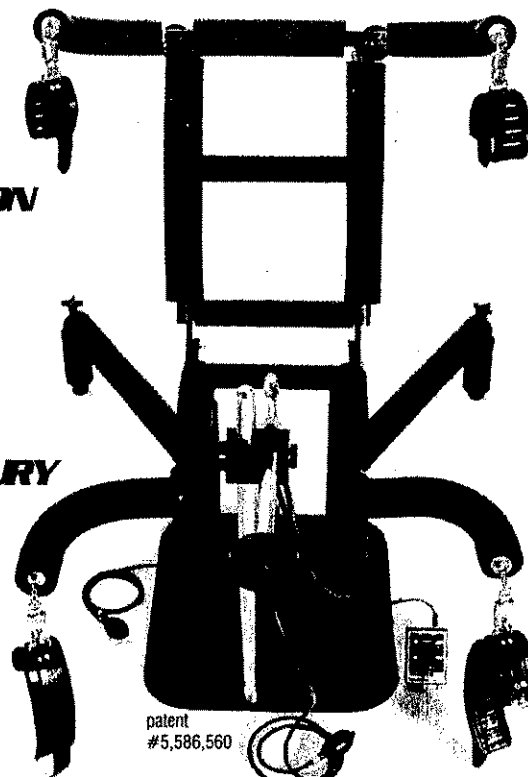
kick myself for *not* saying it when I had the chance. I hate the 'shoulda, woulda, coulda's.')

Best wishes to you both. <G*>"

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Who's in charge here anyway?

by E.G.

I have spent the last three years trying to understand BDSM and its place in my life and psyche. In the course of this search, I spoke to many people in the scene, most of them dominant men, and one of the things I heard over and over is, "The submissive is always in control." That sentence has been uttered ruefully, seductively, reassuringly, proudly, teasingly. It is the one thing almost every Top has claimed: "You will be safe. We will never go beyond what you want, because the submissive is always in control."

Well, I didn't necessarily *want* to be in control (I am, after all, submissive), but I also didn't necessarily believe that I would be safe when a selfproclaimed dominant/sadist was holding the whip! In fact, I saw this as a definite problem. If I am surrendering my will and my power, then I can't *possibly* be in control, and if I'm not in control, can I really be sure I'll be safe? What if my partner wants to go further than I do? After all, he or she gets off on administering pain, right? I did ask for a sadist, didn't I?

The answer always was, "The submissive is in control." I could stop things whenever I wanted to just by using my safe word. Oh, a safe word. That helps.

But what about a situation where the dominant wants more than I do? Will he/she be willing to stop when I want? And if he/she does, won't he/she be frustrated? I like it when my partner is as pleased as I.

A new word entered my BDSM vocabulary: negotiation. It's a word that doesn't sound very romantic or sexy. It certainly doesn't sound very submissive or dominant. But negotiation is integral to every BDSM encounter, whether a single play session or a 24/7 lifestyle relationship.

Every time two people interact, there is a negotiation. At a job, the employee agrees to perform certain tasks with a par-

ticular attitude and behavior. In return, the employer agrees to give the employee money, health insurance, etc. In a social relationship like a friendship, the trade is more subtle and complex, but it is still negotiated. If both operated within certain parameters, the friendship is "good", if too many parameters are violated, the friendship is over.

In BDSM encounters, the negotiations are different from those in more typical (vanilla) encounters, but they are at least as important. If the submissive wants to be spanked and ordered to crawl around on the floor, and the dominant wants to tie up the submissive and use 7 or 8 different floggers, the encounter isn't likely to be a happy one for either. So we talk about what we like. We tell each other what excites us and what doesn't, what is "hot" and what is "gross."

Negotiation is especially important in BDSM because implicit in our interactions is the exchange of power and the potential use of physical force. If the submissive and the dominant can't agree on a mutually satisfying scenario, it's most likely that there will be an unhappy ending to the story. At best one of the participants will be frustrated, and it's possible that one might be harmed (not the same as a "happy hurt").

So who *is* in charge? As a submissive, I say we share the responsibility. I am responsible for telling the dominant about my likes and dislikes, what is excitingly scary and what is too scary to be exciting. I am responsible for making sure that the dominant knows how I'm feeling and where I am in the scene all the time. I am responsible for making sure that the person to whom I am submitting will honor and abide by my limitations and my desires.

The dominant is responsible for making sure I know what he/she likes and

wants, for making the scene work for both of us based on the information we have shared. Even when telling me what a slut I am, the dominant is responsible for respecting me.

It is a balance of power, a negotiated agreement. If the balance is achieved in a different space than that occupied by more traditional lovers, it is no less a balance. **Each partner is empowered to the extent that the other is willing to allow, and disempowered to the extent that he/she is willing to allow. Each gives and each receives.**

But I had experiences where that wasn't the case, where things went beyond what I wanted. I heard about dominants who did not respond immediately to safe words. I spoke to dominants who said they didn't *believe* in safe words. The concept of talking about what is going to happen during an encounter seemed foreign to what I had learned in the vanilla world. In the movies romantic is spontaneous, right? The hero takes the heroine in his arms, she stiffens and then melts. Sigh... The heroine never has to tell him what she likes, he just knows because he is so attuned to her needs. In fact, they both know; it's magical.

When I am in sub mode, I want to believe that my top knows exactly what to do to drive me wild with pleasure/pain. I don't want to sit up and say "Excuse me, Sir, but you missed a spot". And I definitely don't want to be in the position of saying "Whoa! That's too much!" and get no response!

There are so many wonderful things to do in BDSM that a laundry list of pleasures (and displeasures) takes nothing away from the element of surprise.

That's what makes all of this strange play that we like possible and reasonable. That's why BDSM is not necessarily neurotic or self-destructive behavior. Because we agree on who is in charge and how that power exchange will operate between us. Then the fun begins! ♦

(*"EG" is a Long Island businesswoman who has an active social life.*)

Writer's Guidelines -- for *THE SANDMUTOPIAN GUARDIAN*

a Journal of BDSM Realities

The Guardian is first and foremost a practical guide to safe and enjoyable exotic eroticism. Think of it as a combination of the *Popular Mechanics*™ and *Consumer's Digest*™ of kinky sex. Our ambition is to become the independent "Journal of Record" of BDSM. Our readership includes people of all sexual orientations, gender identities and power polarities. While readers' experience levels range from "just thinking about it," to "lifestyle devotee," we want to be especially mindful of, and useful to, the *less* experienced reader.

The Guardian is not following anyone's Party Line nor is it aligned with any particular demographic sub-grouping. We will NOT REFUSE a piece because of the "political" point of view it reflects or (to the limit of Statutory Libel) because "someone" will "be offended."

We take the broadest possible view of what constitutes appropriate material

*EQUIPMENT *LEGAL and SOCIAL ISSUES

*RELATIONSHIPS *ROLES *SCENARIOS,

*TECHNIQUES *CRAFTS and SKILLS

HEALTH and SAFETY CONCERNS

Almost anything touching on BDSM, Fetish, Power Exchange, might be a successful article. We also buy "filler" pieces: humorous anecdotes, tips and hints, cartoons, etc..

Work can be submitted typewritten, or as an ASCII file in PC or MAC format.

Payment: We pay — not lavishly, but respectably. Please contact us for particulars, including special situations, including illustrations, and reprints. Contributors get a copy of the magazine in which their article appears.

We buy one-time serial rights with a one-time reprint provision. Payment is on acceptance, and we will respond to all submissions within 60 days. SASE required for return.

Style and Content

Factual material, organized sequentially is the first concern, "style" is a bonus. Remember the "5 W's" of Journalism:

Who, What, Where, When, and how — the "How to Write a Good Term Paper" handbooks? That's the idea.

Citations are Good. If you reference a product or publication, there should be an address and/or phone number, too. Appended Resource Lists are always welcome.

It is probably better to put too many words on paper, than to skip over "the obvious." Clarifying illustration, even crude hand drawings, is always useful.

About "PC Language": Writers needn't feel that they have to obscure their own orientations, alignments or biases — and gender specific pronouns *are* used when a specific person's gender is known, or gender is relevant. Otherwise, we like a style which de-emphasizes gender, polarity, and orientation. We have no problem with the "he/she, her/him" style used in Government documents, the "false plural" form or even the made up pronouns like "(s)he" and "co." Please be mindful that 1/2 of Humanity is *not* Male and at least 10% of it is *not* heterosexual. Try for inclusiveness.

About "Safety": We assume that our readers are adults and that we, and they, reached maturity by not being "stupid or reckless." *The Guardian* focuses on the pleasure and sensual nature of BDSM and less on the dangers, perils and negatives of BDSM play. If there are some safety or health issues not readily apparent, they need to be included. But we will not belabor the obvious.

DEADLINES:

The next issue of *The Guardian* is #27, and will be ready for the printer in late September. If your piece misses the deadline, we will still be buying and paying as we go. In effect, we've got to worry about deadlines ... you can just work to your own schedule.

ARTWORK AND PHOTOGRAPHY

Artists and illustrators are invited to send samples of their work by way of self-introduction. Almost all illustration will be commissioned for particular articles. Possible cover art, centerfold photo-essays and folios will be considered on their own merits. We want to project enjoyment, respect, safe-and-sane practice, and consensuality — or at least *not* communicate the reverse.

We are *not* in the market for "eye candy," rigid bondage/genitorture studies or depictions of atrocities. Work can be submitted in MAC or WINDOWS disk formats. If photographs are accepted, we may ask to use the negative for proper reproduction — and, of course, Model Releases in keeping with the new law.

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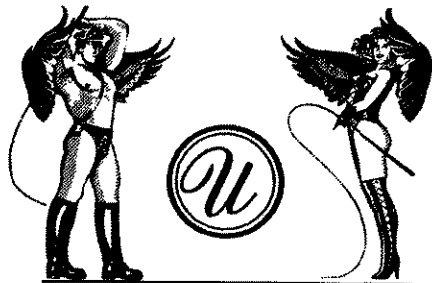
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